FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 DECEMBER 1983

Lebanon

U.S. Casualties, Air Raids — Eight U.S. Marines were killed and two others were wounded when their positions near Beirut airport were shelled on the evening of 4 December, Beirut radio reported. The attack on Marine positions followed a U.S. air raid on Syrian positions north of the Beirut-Damascus Highway during which two U.S. planes were shot down, according to Jerusalem radio. A Syrian military spokesman cited by Damascus radio claimed that Syrian air defenses downed three American aircraft, resulting in the capture of one U.S. pilot. Two Syrians were killed and eight were injured in the raid, he said, and one vehicle and an ammunition depot were hit.

Voice of Lebanon radio, reporting the incident, announced that SAM's were fired at F-14's overflying positions bombed by Israeli aircraft earlier on 3 December. Israel's air raid that day was directed against "terrorist headquarters and positions" in the Bhamdun-Sawfar area, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. All Israeli planes returned safely with the pilots reporting direct hits on their targets. A Syrian military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Damascus radio, said the Israeli planes bombed Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) positions but were "confronted" and forced away by Syrian air defenses. The Damascus daily *AL-BA'TH*, reviewed by the radio, viewed the Israeli raid as "the beginning of the measures Washington and Tel Aviv agreed to carry out against Syria," and cited Lebanese reports that U.S. planes flew cover for the Israeli aircraft.

Other Security Developments — Ten people were killed and about 100 were wounded as a result of an explosion in a Beirut garage early on 5 December, Beirut radio reported. Citing official sources, the Voice of Lebanon said the explosion was caused by a car bomb.

In another development, a PSP official announced on behalf of PSP leader Walid Junblatt that the siege of Christians in Dayr al-Qamar has been lifted and that all civilians and militia of the Phalangist Lebanese Forces will be allowed to leave the town, Beirut radio reported on 4 December. Nevertheless, PSP and Phalangist militia continued fighting in the Al-Kharrub area, southwest of Dayr al-Qamar, the radio said.

Reaction to U.S. Raid — Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan described the 4 December U.S. air raid as a "serious indication" and reiterated that the Lebanese "denounce and reject everything that turns" Lebanon into an arena for conflict, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, on Al-Wazzan's instructions, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. ambassador and "briefed him on the implications" of the raid, the radio added. Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in a message to the UN secretary general and Security Council chairman characterized the raid as an "escalated military move" that constitutes a "serious development in the region and a threat to world peace and security," Damascus radio reported.

The Saudi paper *AL-MADINAH* said the raid pushed events toward "a new stage of grave escalation" that would presage the undermining of all peace efforts and efforts at moderation in the Middle East, while *AL-YAWM* viewed it as "vivid and certain evidence" that the U.S.-Israeli agreement is being implemented, according to Riyadh radio. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat "strongly condemned" the raid and expressed his strong support for Syria against U.S. and Israeli air raids, AFP stated. Damascus radio cited a DFLP-PFLP statement describing the raid as a "new qualitative development" and a "serious escalation."

Political Developments — President Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Beirut on 5 December after his visit to Washington, Beirut radio revealed. In a predeparture statement in Washington broadcast by the radio, the president said the visit brought about a strong U.S.-Lebanese working partnership with the establishment of a "high-level joint committee" to work for the implementation of the two countries' common interests and objectives. In an earlier news conference, also broadcast by the radio, Foreign Minister Elie Salim expressed satisfaction with the program worked out during the visit.

PLO Affairs

Intermittent exchanges of fire and clashes continued between forces supporting and opposing 'Arafat around Tripoli throughout 2-5 December, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, in remarks reported by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio, 'Arafat confirmed that Tripoli was shelled from positions controlled by Syria and alleged that these attacks were in preparation for an advance into the city.

Regarding negotiations on 'Arafat's withdrawal from Tripoli, opposition spokesman Mahmud al-Labadi reaffirmed his organization's objection to any Palestinian fighters departing with 'Arafat. Speaking to the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ*, Al-Labadi maintained that the opposition is "cooperating fully" with the Coordination Committee headed by former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Meanwhile, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan told Riyadh television that he was in Riyadh for discussions aimed at securing a safe withdrawal from Tripoli to the sea and averting "bloody retaliation" during the withdrawal process.

In another development, President al-Jumayyil objected to 'Arafat's request that the United Nations oversee the evacuation from Tripoli, asserting that Lebanon "opposes any solution in which the government is not a major participant," according to Beirut radio. Sources cited by Jerusalem radio insisted that Israel is "categorically opposed" to having the United Nations help in the Palestinian evacuation.

AFP cited 'Arafat as saying that after leaving Tripoli he would like to reopen discussions with Jordan on the basis of the plan worked out at Fes summit last year, though his first stops after leaving the city will be his political headquarters in Tunis and his military headquarters in North Yemen.

Israel

Agreements With U.S. — In the wake of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington, Israel and the United States are working on a joint document to formalize their cooperation and U.S. support for Israel in opposing Soviet activity, according to *HA'ARETZ*. However, Jerusalem radio reported that the two parties are "finding it difficult" to agree on a formulation for the document, as the United States wants to minimize the degree to which the agreements are binding, while Israel wants to emphasize this aspect.

On Lebanon, the United States and Israel agreed on full coordination and a "firm policy" against the Syrians and terrorists under their protection, *MA'ARIV* correspondents stated. In this connection, the two countries decided to "take advantage" of a weakening Syrian stand in Lebanon to increase pressure on Syria and agreed that Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon should not be discussed in the absence of Syrian willingness to discuss a parallel withdrawal, the paper added. A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio "categorically denied" that a secret U.S.-Israeli agreement against Syria and the USSR was concluded during Shamir's visit.

Arab Reaction — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali expressed Egypt's "dissatisfaction" with the U.S.-Israeli agreement and said it does not serve the cause of peace and represents a bias toward Israel, MENA reported. Similarly, President Husni Mubarak, in a statement reported by Cairo radio, viewed the agreement as "an obstacle on the road to peace" and opined that it would anger moderates and "those that have good relations with the United States." However, Mubarak noted that the motives for the agreement are not yet known and stated that Egypt is waiting to find out from the United States what is behind it.

In an interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES* reported by Amman radio, King Husayn characterized the agreement as "some sort of reward to Israel for rejecting President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative" and continuing its settlement policies and its occupation of southern Lebanon, adding that the Reagan administration was not sufficiently firm with Israel during the talks. Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, said in a statement reported by SPA that the agreement is the biggest threat to the Arab and Islamic nation today and wondered what justification the United States, "a country which advocates world peace and presents peace plans in the Middle East," had for allying itself with Israel.

Syria

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that 150 Soviet and 60 GDR experts have departed Syria following that country's decision to reduce the number of foreign experts in the country. No report on the subject has been monitored from Syrian sources.

Iran-Iraq War

In a statement reported by INA, an Iraqi military spokesman warned the Iranian Government that if it continues to shell Iraqi towns and civilian establishments, Iraq will "be forced to reply strongly by striking at selected targets." An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by IRNA contended that the charge that Iran had shelled civilian areas was false and asserted that Iraq had made it to "justify its intended shelling of residential quarters in Iran."

Speaking in an interview with the Cairo paper *AL-AHRAM* transmitted by INA, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn asserted that, had Iran been able to close the Strait of Hormuz, it would have done so "before now" and that "many" Iranian officials realize that Iran would be harmed more than any other state by such a move. He added that the strait could not be closed for long because the world has vital interests in it and if it were closed "world states, other than those of the region," would intervene.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS
Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 234 *5 December 1983*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

- 'Arafat Claims Political Victory Over Dissidents ...... A 1
    - Tripoli Evacuation, U.S. Raids *[AFP]* ...... A 1
    - Condemns U.S. Raids *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ...... A 1
    - Predicts Attack on Tripoli *[Algiers VOP]* ...... A 1
    - Links With Egypt *[Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF]* ...... A 1
    - Denies Government-in-Exile *[Kuwait AL-QABAS]* ...... A 2
    - Official Denies 'Arafat Remarks *[WAKH]* ...... A 2
- Khalid al-Hasan on Cease-Fire Agreement *[Riyadh TV]* ...... A 2
- DFLP, PFLP Issue Statement on U.S. Raid *[Damascus]* ...... A 3
- Command Statement on 1 Dec Tripoli Shelling *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ...... A 4
- Hani al-Hasan on Government-in-Exile, Cease-Fire *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ...... A 4
- Al-Wazir on Syria Dialogue, POW Exchange *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 1 Dec]* ...... A 4
- PRC Ambassador Pledges New 'Material Aid' *[Tunis]* ...... A 5
- Opposition Spokesman on PNC, Exit of Fighters *[Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ 4 Dec]* ...... A 5
    - Should Be on Frontlines *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ...... A 5
- Abu Mayzar on Shamir-Reagan Talks *[Damascus]* ...... A 5
- Habib Chatti Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Agreement *[SPA]* ...... A 5
    - Condemns U.S. Air Raids *[SPA]* ...... A 6
- Reportage on ICO Meetings in Dhaka *[cross-reference]* ...... A 6

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

- Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau Pays Visit ...... C 1
    - Received by Amir ...... C 1
    - Talks Held in Manama ...... C 1
    - Trudeau Departs for Kuwait ...... C 1
- Australian Trade Minister Holds Contacts ...... C 1
    - Meets With Amir ...... C 1
    - Ministers Hold Talks ...... C 1
    - Meets Prime Minister ...... C 1
    - Foreign Minister's Meeting ...... C 1
    - Departs 4 Dec ...... C 2

KUWAIT

- Papers Comment on U.S. Attacks in Lebanon *[AL-WATAN, AL-QABAS]* ...... C 2
- AS-SIYASAH Scores U.S.-Israeli Alliance *[1 Dec]* ...... C 2
- Canadian Prime Minister Holds Talks ...... C 3
    - Trudeau Details Position ...... C 3
    - Trudeau Departs 4 Dec ...... C 3
- Australian Trade Minister Begins Visit ...... C 3
- Minister Voices Reservations on GCC Security Pact *[AL-QABAS]* ...... C 4
- Labor Ministry Forgery Probe Termed 'Sensitive' *[ARAB TIMES 3 Dec]* ...... C 4

OMAN

- Second Group of British Jaguars Received *[Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ 4 Dec]* ...... C 4
- Interior Minister Leaves for Iraq ...... C 4

PDRY

- Radio on U.S. Air Raid on Syrian Positions .... C 5
- Foreign Minister Meets Soviet Ambassador .... C 5
- Chairman Receives USSR Justice Official .... C 5
- Cuban Foreign Minister Ends Visit 3 Dec .... C 5
- Supreme Party Control Committee Meets .... C 5

SAUDI ARABIA

- Papers Comment on U.S. Raids in Lebanon *[AL-MADINAH, AL-YAWM]* .... C 6
- ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Raps U.S.-Israeli Agreement *[2 Dec]* .... C 6
- Foreign Minister Departs for Oman .... C 6
- King Fahd Receives Cypriot Minister .... C 6
  - Nicosia Radio Report .... C 6
- Fahd Receives British Trade Secretary .... C 7
- Secretary Holds Talks .... C 7

YAR

- Soviet Justice Official Arrives for Talks .... C 7
- Saudi Health Minister Arrives, Makes Statement .... C 7

EGYPT

- Mubarak Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Accord .... D 1
  - More on Mubarak Reaction .... D 1
- Al-Baz Meets With Secretary of State Shultz .... D 1
- People's Assembly on U.S.-Israeli Agreement .... D 1
- Press Reaction to U.S.-Israeli Agreement .... D 2
  - AL-AHRAM, AL-JUMHURIYAH Comment .... D 2
- Israeli Embassy Denies Reports on Shamir Request .... D 3
- Mubarak Reportedly Offers 'Invitation' to 'Arafat .... D 3
- President Mubarak Meets With Political Group .... D 3
  - 'Ali Comments on Meeting .... D 3
- Soviet Delegation Signs Trade Protocol, Departs .... D 4
- Reportage on Visit of Niger President Kountche .... D 4
  - Arrives in Cairo .... D 4
  - Meets Mubarak, Talks Begin .... D 4
  - 'Ali Comments on Talks .... D 4
- Ghali Interview in Lebanese Daily Cited .... D 4
- Ghali Dissatisfied With U.S.-Israeli Pact .... D 5
- Delegation Issues Statement on Tripoli Visit .... D 5

IRAQ

- Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,298 .... E 1
  - Communique No 1,299 .... E 1
  - Communique No 1,300 .... E 1
- President's Interview With Cairo AL-AHRAM .... E 2
- SPA: Prince Nayif in Baghdad for Ministers' Parley .... E 9
- INA: Brother Ready To Assume Hafiz al-Asad's Role .... E 9

JORDAN

- Husayn Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Pact in Interview .... F 1
  - Amman Cites Interview Criticism .... F 1
- Turkish President Arrives on 3-Day Official Visit .... F 1
  - Makes Statement .... F 1
  - Report on 3 Dec Talks .... F 2

  - Husayn, Evren 3 Dec Speeches *[AR-RA'Y 4 Dec]* ..... F 2
  - Husayn Receives Evern 4 Dec ..... F 5
  - Economic, Industrial Agreement Signed ..... F 5
- Reportage on Visit of Hungarian Foreign Minister ..... F 5
  - Arrives 2 Dec ..... F 5
  - Meets Badran, Ibrahim ..... F 5
  - Received by Husayn, Al-Qasim ..... F 5
  - Leaves Amman 4 Dec ..... F 6
- JORDAN TIMES Criticizes U.S. Air Attacks *[5 Dec]* ..... F 6

LEBANON

- Reportage on Syrian Downing of U.S. Planes ..... G 1
  - SAM Missiles Fired ..... G 1
  - U.S. Plane Reportedly Downed ..... G 1
  - Sources Confirm Planes Downed ..... G 1
  - Plane Reportedly 'A-7' Type ..... G 1
  - Pilot Reportedly 'Detained' ..... G 1
  - Helicopter Picks Up Pilot ..... G 1
  - Pilot 'Captured' by Syrians ..... G 1
  - U.S. Pilot Killed ..... G 1
  - VOL on Downed Pilots ..... G 1
- Foreign Ministry Summons U.S. Diplomat on Raid ..... G 2
- Al-Wazzan Comments on U.S. Air Raids 4 Dec ..... G 2
- U.S. Embassy Spokesman Denies Evacuation ..... G 2
- U.S. Ships Bombard Gunmen's Positions *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 2
  - 'Aramun, Baysur Areas Shelled *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 2
- 10 U.S. Marines Wounded in Artillery Shelling ..... G 2
  - 8 Marines Reported Killed ..... G 2
- Israeli Patrol Attacked in An-Nabatiyah 2 Dec ..... G 3
- Israeli Planes Hit Syrian Radar Facility ..... G 3
- Israeli Planes Raid 'Positions' in Mountain ..... G 3
  - AFP Report on Raid ..... G 3
- Israelis Cut Roads in South 3 December ..... G 3
- Israeli Plane Reportedly Downed Over Lebanon ..... G 3
- French Super Etendard Reportedly Crashes in Sarba ..... G 3
- French Defense Ministry Denies Air Raid in Lebanon ..... G 3
- Further on Al-Jumayyil's Visit to Washington ..... G 4
  - Al-Jumayyil on Syrian Withdrawal ..... G 4
  - Al-Jumayyil, Salim News Conference ..... G 4
  - Al-Jumayyil on UN-Sponsored Exit ..... G 5
  - Makes Washington Departure Statement ..... G 5
- President al-Jumayyil Arrives in Paris *[Paris]* ..... G 5
- Al-Jumayyil Returns Home From U.S. Visit 5 Dec ..... G 5
- Outcome of Lebanese-U.S. Talks Summed Up ..... G 5
- Further on Death of Shaykh Taqiy ad-Din ..... G 6
  - Al-Wazzan Discusses Investigation ..... G 6
  - Reward Offered for Assassin ..... G 6
  - Inquiry Centers on Relative *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 6
- Al-Wazzan Denounces Israeli Practices in South ..... G 6
- Reportage on Explosion Caused by Car Bomb ..... G 7
- VOL Report on Explosion ..... G 7
  - Casualties Rushed to Hospitals ..... G 7
  - 10 Dead, 100 Injured ..... G 7
  - Trapped People Rescued ..... G 7
- Strong Explosion Reported in Center of Sidon ..... G 7
- Army Guidance Directorate Shortens Curfew Hours ..... G 7
- VOL: 150 Soviet, 60 GDR 'Experts' Leave Syria ..... G 7
- Druze Lift Siege on Dayr al-Qamar 4 Dec ..... G 7
- Phalangists Shell PSP Positions in Al-Kharrub *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 8
- Press on U.S.-Israeli Agreement, Withdrawals ..... G 8

SYRIA

3 U.S. Planes Shot Down, 1 Pilot Detained .... H 1
    Weinberger Allegations on Pilots Denied *[Radio Monte Carlo]* .... H 1
    Message Sent to U.N. .... H 1
    Ambassadors Informed of Raid .... H 1
    AL-BA'TH, TISHRIN on Raid .... H 1
    International Reaction Reported .... H 2
    Palestine Broadcast on Raid .... H 3
5 Dec U.S. Reconnaissance Sorties Reported .... H 3
3 December Israeli Raid on Lebanon Reported .... H 3
    Raid Opens 'Aggressive Operation' .... H 3
    TISHRIN on Raid .... H 4
ATH-THAWRAH on Role of U.S., Israel in Lebanon .... H 4
TISHRIN on 'Shameless' U.S.-Israeli Alliance .... H 4
U.S.-Israeli Pact 'Danger' to Regional Peace .... H 6
Damascus Predicts 'More Hostile' U.S. Stand .... H 6
UK's Richard Luce Arrives on Visit 3 Dec .... H 6
    Received by Khaddam .... H 7
    Luce's Remarks Reported .... H 7
Press Agreement With USSR Renewed 4 Dec .... H 7

ISRAEL

Report on Weekly Cabinet Session 4 December .... I 1
    Further on Cabinet Session .... I 1
    'Arafat Aid Opposed .... I 1
    Arens Reports to Cabinet .... I 1
    Shamir Rebukes Levi *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Dec]* .... I 1
    4 December Cabinet Communique *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE 4 Dec]* .... I 1
Foreign Ministry Denies Secret Agreement With U.S. .... I 2
    Foreign Ministry Spokesman Comments .... I 2
Shamir Interviewed in U.S. 30 November *[MA'ARIV 2 Dec]* .... I 2
Commentator on U.S. Visit, Cabinet Meeting .... I 3
Difficulty in Concluding Washington Agreements .... I 3
    Further on Agreement Document *[HA'ARETZ 4 Dec]* .... I 4
Arens Meets With West Bank Settlers .... I 4
    Further on Arens Remarks *[HA'ARETZ 4 Dec]* .... I 4
IDF Attacks 'Terrorist' Positions in Lebanon .... I 4
    Spokesman on Antiterrorist Operations .... I 4
Jerusalem Reports U.S. Raid on Syrian Positions .... I 5
    Press on U.S. Raids .... I 5
    Further Press Comment .... I 6
Finance Minister Comments on U.S. Economic Aid .... I 6
Ghali on Return of Egyptian Ambassador to Tel Aviv .... I 6
Explosion at Israeli Bangkok Embassy 3 Dec .... I 6

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Prime Minister's Visit to Tunisia Reviewed .... Q 1
Official Receives Tunisian Defense Minister .... Q 1
Upper Voltan Foreign Minister Arrives .... Q 1

LIBYA

Military Official Ends Visit to Hungary, Poland .... Q 1
Economic Agreements Signed With Tunisia .... Q 1

MAURITANIA

Haydala Interviewed on 'Renewal,' Drought *[Brussels LE SOIR 26-27 Nov]* .... Q 2

MOROCCO

IAEA Agreement for Uranium Supplies Signed .... Q 3

SUDAN

At-Tayyib Briefed on Talks in U.S., France .... Q 3

TUNISIA

Algerian Prime Minister Arrives 2 December .... Q 3
Mzali on Arab Summit, Palestinians, Egypt *[WAKH]* .... Q 3

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Receives Message From Chad's Habre .... R 1
Postponement of WSLF General Congress Announced .... R 1
[Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Front]

SOMALIA

Radio Halgan: Government To Reduce Missions .... R 1

UGANDA

Prime Minister, Delegation Depart for UK Visit .... R 1
Prime Minister Stresses Human Rights Commitment .... R 1
Army Chief of Staff Killed in Helicopter Crash .... R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Election Set for 14 January; Biya Nominated .... S 1
Biya Message Urges Students To Resume Classes .... S 1
Bishop, Priest Slain in Mbalmayo Diocese .... S 1
CPC Delegation Arrives in Yaounde on 10-Day Visit .... S 1

CHAD

Group Claims Responsibility for Embassy Attack .... S 1

CONGO

Joint Bulgarian Commission Meeting Ends 2 Dec .... S 2

GABON

Government Ban on Reporting French News Lifted .... S 2

ZAIRE

Mobutu To Visit Kenya, Portugal in December .... S 2
Opposition Head Calls for Meeting With Leaders .... S 2

WEST AFRICA

GAMBIA

Appeals Court Confirms Death Sentences .... T 1

GHANA

Rawlings Receives Newly Appointed Envoys .... T 1
PNDC Announces Under Secretaries Appointed .... T 1

GUINEA-BISSAU

Senegal's Diouf Arrives for 'Official' Visit *[Dakar]* .... T 1

IVORY COAST

Officials Refuse Comment on Bokassa Departure .... T 1

LIBERIA

Defense Minister Asks Sierra Leonians To Leave .... T 2
Major Coup Figure Reveals More on Plot .... T 2

NIGER

Kountche Departs for Official Visit to Egypt .... T 2

NIGERIA

Shagari Reaffirms Commitment on Chad, Sahara .... T 2
Former Head of State Gowon Arrives for Visit .... T 3
Audu Named Nigerian Representative to UN .... T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

ANGOP Notes UN General Assembly Vote on Namibia .... U 1
FAPLA Forces in Huila Kill 274 UNITA Members .... U 1
FALA Communique Claims Capture of Andulo *[Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel]* .... U 1

BOTSWANA

President Discusses PRC Visit, Commonwealth Talks .... U 1

MADAGASCAR

Antananarivo Reports on Soviet Delegation's Visit .... U 2

MALAWI

President Banda Returns From Commonwealth Summit .... U 2

MOZAMBIQUE

Soviet Warships on 'Working Visit' to Maputo .... U 2

SOUTH AFRICA

- Five Held in Alleged Seychelles Coup Plot .... U 3
    - Law Minister Issues Statement .... U 3
    - Rene Agent Infiltrated *[RAND DAILY MAIL 3 Dec]* .... U 3
    - SADF Involvement Denied *[Umtata]* .... U 4
    - Rene Charges Cited *[Umtata]* .... U 4
- STAR on 'Secret' Europe Meeting, Namibia Initiative *[2 Dec]* .... U 4
- Minister Notes Soviet 'Stranglehold' on Africa .... U 4
- UDF Publicity Secretary Denies Links With ANC *[Umtata]* .... U 4

SWAZILAND

- Bhekimpi Returns From New Delhi, Comments *[THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND 2 Dec]* .... U 4
- Former Opposition Party Leader Detained *[THE SWAZI NEWS 3 Dec]* .... U 5

ZIMBABWE

- Mugabe Says All Citizens Equal Under Government .... U 5
- Muzorewa's Foreign Activities To Be Investigated .... U 5
- Government Statement Affirms Support for 'Arafat .... U 6

'Arafat Claims Political Victory Over Dissidents

Tripoli Evacuation, U.S. Raids

NC042041 Paris AFP in English 2037 GMT 4 Dec 83

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Tripoli, North Lebanon, Dec 4 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today claimed a political victory over the Syrian-backed dissidents surrounding his troops in Tripoli, northern Lebanon. "Nobody can provoke a split within the PLO by a military attack or aggression" he told French journalists at his Tripoli headquarters.

Mr 'Arafat said that although his troops were "besieged" in Tripoli as a result of the recent fighting in north Lebanon, the PLO was now "stronger than ever". "We have been able to face up to all the attacks, even the military attack we are suffering at this moment, because the mass of Palestinians in the occupied territories have proved to the world that the Palestinian people are united and totally support the PLO" he said. His "message to the world" was that the Palestinians formed "a sole entity, inside the occupied territories as well as outside", he added.

On the political front, the section of the PLO that remained loyal to Mr 'Arafat had won a clear political victory "in the Arab world, with the non-aligned countries, in the Islamic community, and even in the United Nations". Welcoming yesterday's agreement by the United Nations to provide ships to evacuate his troops from Tripoli, Mr 'Arafat said he hoped it would lead to a quick response from Syria. "In any case," he said, "it (the agreement) proves that the public opinion represented at the United Nations is worried by what is happening here".

There were still two details of the evacuation which had not yet been settled in negotiations with Syria, Mr 'Arafat said. These were the security of Tripoli after his men left, and the security of the nearby Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid refugee camps taken by the Syrian-backed dissidents during the fighting.

But he said the breach between himself and Syria need not be permanent. "In 1976 (during the Syrian-Palestinian conflicts in Lebanon) we ended by finding a compromise," he said. "Now, I still hold out my hand to my Syrian brothers. We are Arabs, and we form a single nation".

He strongly condemned today's "barbaric" U.S. air raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon, and said he "totally supported" Syria against Israeli and American air raids.

After leaving Tripoli, Mr 'Arafat said he would like to reopen discussions with King Husayn of Jordan on the future of the Palestinians based on the "Fes plan" worked out at the Arab summit in Morocco last year. His first stop after leaving the city will be Tunisia, where his political headquarters are, and he also plans to visit his military headquarters in North Yemen.

Mr 'Arafat has also been invited to visit King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Husayn of Jordan, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Condemns U.S. Raids

JN041915 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] In Tripoli, Lebanon, Yasir 'Arafat has strongly condemned the U.S. aggression against Syrian positions and described it as barbaric. He expressed support for Syria, adding: I am still extending my hand to my Syrian brothers. We are Arabs and we are one nation.

Predicts Attack on Tripoli

LD040026 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee Chairman and commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces, stressed this afternoon in Tripoli that the Syrian forces intend to advance in the direction of the city following their concentrated artillery shelling of the Palestine revolution forces' positions last night. At a press conference held this afternoon, Brother Abu 'Ammar added that the Syrians also shelled Tripoli port with the intention of destroying it, and that last night they concentrated rocket shelling on the port. They also shelled our positions in (Mahlul), (Bab at-Tibbanah), and the port sector near [name indistinct]. They attacked the area on three axes: south, north, and east. At 0300 they launched a new attack in the northern direction but our forces succeeded in repelling them.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman affirmed that the Syrians supplied the dissidents with live ammunition and weapons, groups of fighters, and equipment.

Links With Egypt

NC041050 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has made a statement to the *ROSE AL-YUSUF* magazine. The statement will be published in tomorrow's issue of the magazine. 'Arafat said the final outcome of the messages he sent to President Mubarak and the responses he received in reply indicate that they agree that what is facing the Palestinian revolution is a grave conspiracy which is directed at the area as a whole and not only at the Palestinian people.

Answering a question regarding the fact that his military command in San'a' is located far away from the heart of the main battle, 'Arafat said: I wish my headquarters were in Egypt. He added: During the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956, I fought under the command of an Egyptian. I would like to go back to Egypt.

The PLO chairman was asked whether the departure of his forces from Beirut meant the fall of the military solution. 'Arafat answered: On the contrary, the most wonderful war of attrition against Israel is the one that we and our Lebanese allies fought after our departure from Beirut. He described the Palestinian revolution as a giant — a full nation of 5 million Palestinians moving in every direction.

Regarding the lessons derived from the Beirut battle, Mr 'Arafat pointed out that the main lesson is that a small dedicated force in the Arab world was able to face the devilish Israeli war machine, which is unconditionally supported by the latest U.S. weapons, in the longest Arab-Israeli war. The PLO chairman said: The second miracle is our success in the war of attrition which compelled former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to resign following the losses inflicted on the Israelis.

Denies Government-in-Exile

GF041211 Doha QNA in Arabic 0828 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 Dec (QNA) — PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat has again denied any intention to form a Palestinian government-in-exile. In a report on a telephone conversation published in the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* today, 'Arafat expressed his gratitude to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for inviting him to visit Egypt, and said: Egypt has always supported the PLO in its misfortune and this we can never forget.

He refused to answer a question on whether he intends to visit Cairo and said that the Egyptian popular delegation's visit to Tripoli is the biggest proof of Egypt's stance toward the Palestinian people.

Official Denies 'Arafat Remarks

GF041940 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1855 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Dec (WAKH) — PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman has categorically denied the report by Monte Carlo radio quoting the Egyptian magazine *ROSE AL-YUSUF* concerning PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's desire to transfer his command to Cairo.

In a statement to WAKH correspondent in Beirut this evening, 'Abd ar-Rahman said that no such statement on this topic was given to any Egyptian party or newspaper. He added that the temporary headquarters of the Palestinian leadership is in Tunis and that no change has been made in this decision by the Executive Committee or its chairman.

Asked about the U.S. raid, he said: "We denounce this savage U.S. raid against our brothers and sons — the officers and soldiers of the Arab Syrian Army — and we declare our united stand with them in the same ditch of confrontation against the imperialist U.S. enemy. We sieze this opportunity to call on the Syrian leadership to adopt immediate action in order to rectify the march of Syrian-Palestinian-nationalist Lebanese relations on one foundation in order to confront the imperialist-Zionist-U.S. aggression."

Khalid al-Hasan on Cease-Fire Agreement

GF050520 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1833 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan by unidentified reporter in Riyadh — recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] On your visit to your second country, the Kingdom, I would like to explore your opinion on some points. First, what is your vision of the contents of the agreement announced in Damascus a few days ago, which was achieved through the great efforts of Saudi Arabia and fraternal Syria in the hope of stopping the bloodshed and stabilizing the situation in Tripoli and reaching an agreement between Palestinian brothers covering all aspects?

[Al-Hasan] No doubt what took place in northern Lebanon, beginning with events in Al-Biqa' and ending with the armed clashes around in the city of Tripoli in the camps of Nahr al-Barid and al-Baddawi and then in Tripoli itself, was more painful than any free man can bear. We exerted great efforts to prevent the explosion of the situation. The Kingdom, particularly His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, exerted enormous efforts at early stages to prevent the explosion of the situation. However, Almighty God did not guide us to achieve success in this for reasons unknown to us or to see the pain of this Arab disintegration.

The situation exploded and the tragedy was more than anyone could bear at the time when the Israeli enemy was inside our capitals and on our border. That is why Saudi Arabia redoubled its efforts until it finally achieved an agreement with Syria, the most important part of which is that it stopped the Palestinian and Arab blood being shed by Palestinian and Arab hands. At any rate, the continuation of this cease-fire will create a new atmosphere of calm which will enable treating things wisely and patiently. What is important is that bloodshed stopped and thus we can now say this stage in the reputation of the Palestinian struggle has passed. [Reporter] Mr Khalid, what is your view of the general situation and to what extent do you believe that the agreement is already in the process of being implemented?

[Al-Hasan] With regard to steps or stages, the agreement is divided into three parts. The first part is the permanent and fixed cease-fire. Thanks to God and thanks to the efforts that have been made, this was accomplished and the cease-fire is still holding. Of course, there are some minor problems, but what is important is that the fighting has been stopped.

The second step in the agreement is the manner in which the armed men will leave Tripoli. This will be a simultaneous exit of all the forces that took part in the battle. As for Brother Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah forces, very regrettibly, they have to leave by sea. This requires executive measures, some of which have been solved while others are still being discussed. This is the purpose of my visit to the Kingdom, to continue efforts to secure the withdrawal withouyt problems and without a bloody retaliation during the withdrawal process. Naturally, the withdrawal includes securing the safety of withdrawal from Tripoli to Al-Mina' and then from Al-Mina' to the sea. We must not forget that these ships will pass through waters that are under the control of Israeli forces and thus we have to secure the safety of the forces and protect them from the Zionist enemy, who is accustomed to treachery.

The Security Council agreed yesterday that the UN flag can be used to protect the Palestinian forces and this is a positive step. Now we are looking into the remaining measures and discussion is still taking place with the Kingdom on this issue. Two meetings have been held with Prince Sa'ud and contacts are taking place between Prince Sa'ud and his counterpart, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, in Damascus. We hope these difficulties will be resolved within the next 24 or 48 hours.

And as for the final part of the agreement, it deals with resolving disagreements through democratic dialogue away from resorting to arms as a means of resolving disputes. It is natural that this part was included in the process because, after stopping the fighting and after the causes of conflict have been eliminated, those who were misguided by Satan will return to their senses and the atmosphere will become appropriate for discussing matters around the table with a positive spirit that guarantees the integrity of the PLO and restores its dignity in the international arena, some of which has certainly been lost due to the fighting around Tripoli.

[Reporter] Mr Khalid, the Palestinian leadership was represented at the meeting. As an eminent Palestinian leader who attended the talks in Damascus, could you enlighten us on the nature of the talks and the point discussed until this agreement was reached?

[Al-Hasan] First, I would like to point out that our relations with Saudi Arabia, since the late King Faysal, are based on firm foundations, announced and affirmed by the rulers in Saudi Arabia. His Majesty King Fahd has reiterated more than anyone else that the Kingdom's stand is to fulfill the Palestinian desire and will and to try to implement what the Palestinians want and to reject what they do not want. That is why the Kingdom's role since the crises began has been to achieve what the Palestinians desire — no fighting. The Kingdom tried to stop the fighting when it began working within the framework which we envisaged.

Consequently, the king carried out this role honestly, as the Kingdom is known for honoring its pledges. First, his majesty succeeded in arranging the meeting between me and President Hafiz al-Asad, which was a beginning of what we hoped would be excellent results. However, a setback took place after my visit and war in Tripoli started. Then his majesty's efforts to stop fighting became massive. He succeeded with the Syrians in reaching an agreement to discuss the crises. Prince Sa'ud went to Damascus. Prince Sa'ud insisted that the discussion with Syria could not place place unless Fatah representatives were present at the meetings because the questions and matters to agree upon have to be discussed by us as well. From here, Brother Rafiq an-Natshah went from Riyadh and I traveled from Tunis, according to this wish and at the agreement of brothers in the Central Committee of the movement. We spent 3 days and 2 nights during which we did not leave each other except when we went to bed or when the situation required side talks between Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to overcome some of the difficulties which we could not overcome in the joint meeting.

Here I must thank Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal for his efforts and for his adeptness in speech and in his method of treating discussions, which ultimately resulted in the Saudi-Syrian agreement. We agree to it and discussed the detail of the statement which was issued by the foreign ministers in their press statement.

Despite the fact that we are authorized to act, we had to hold consultations, at some times, with our brothers in the leadership. That is why we held continuing consultations with Brother Abu 'Ammar and Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tripoli. We also held continuing consultations with the brother members of the Central Committee in Tunis and Algiers until God finally guided us to the agreement which was reached.

[Reporter] In light of this answer, Mr Khalid, how was it disseminated among some of the Palestinian sides that the agreement was forged without the knowledge of the Palestinian leadership? What are your views on what was circulated?

[Al-Hasan] Those who say this are insane, because when the agreement was being reached, we were present in the same hotel, in almost adjoining rooms, and we were together all the time. We also traveled together and discussed everything during the day and at night to the point that we were exhausted by our lack of sleep. Therefore, I believe that this is not true.

The announcement of the agreement by the Kingdom and Syria undoubtedly has to be made by the two foreign ministers. As for the announcement itself, we took part in the negotiations from the very beginning until the very end.

[Reporter] Would you like to add anything?

[Al-Hasan] Thank you. All I hope is that through the instructions of his majesty the king and through the efforts of brother His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal the problems dealing with the current executive stage in order that all the obstacle that impede the cease-fire will be eliminated. God willing, later incidents will be dealt with as they arise.

DFLP, PFLP Issue Statement on U.S. Raid

JN041959 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Have warned of U.S.-Israeli intentions to launch a large-scale aggression in Lebanon which could escalate and reach Syrian territory itself. The two fronts described the U.S. air raids on the mountain region in Lebanon today as a new qualitative development and a serious escalation of aggression by the United States against the national frontline confrontation forces.

In a joint statement today, the two fronts affirmed that the direct task posed by these developments on the frontline confrontation forces in Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces must emanate from the utmost awareness of the need to strengthen their relations in order to repulse the U.S.-Israeli onslaught.

Command Statement on 1 Dec Tripoli Shelling

JN021727 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The Palestinian revolution forces general command issued a statement following the shelling of the city of Tripoli, its suburbs, and Al-Mina' yesterday. The following is the text of the statement:

The city of Tripoli, its suburbs, and Al-Mina' were surprised at 1600 by shelling from the Syrian tanks accompanied by heavy and medium machinegun fire on the contact lines, particularly the areas of Abu Samrah, Al-Qubbah, and At-Tabbanah. Out of our commitment to the cease-fire, the Palestinian revolution forces did not reply to the source of fire although the shelling lasted 4 hours. We exercised the utmost degree of self-restraint.

We say that this sudden and serious escalation is being implemented intentionally to destroy the preliminary steps that had been agreed upon to rescue the city of Tripoli and end the fighting in northern Lebanon through the efforts of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the northern Coordination Committee, particularly after the Palestinian revoltuion leadership had shown complete response to these efforts. Revolution until victory!

Hani al-Hasan on Government-in-Exile, Cease-Fire

JN041756 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brother Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has said that the Palestinian issue has Arab and international factors by virtue of the fact that the Zionist entity is regarded as an American state and an advanced military base for U.S. policy in the Middle East. He said that such a state of affairs and situation necessitate Arab solidarity.

Brother Hani al-Hasan described the issue of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile as premature. He said: We believe that the issue of forming a government-in-exile is premature since there are no factors for serious thought on forming such a government. He said: When the circumstances for discussing such an issue appear, then the PNC will adopt the decision in the interest of Palestinian struggle.

Speaking about the results of the negotiations that took place in Damascus to achieve an end to the war in northern Lebanon, Brother al-Hasan said: The negotiations resulted in the Saudi agreement and commitment to a permanent cease-fire. The value of this decision lies in its immediate results. This means that Palestinian differences must be settled through democratic dialogue. Our concept of this is that it should fall within the PLO's legitimate frameworks. Thus, the results of the agreement will be sparing the Palestinian people bloodshed and Tripoli and its inhabitants the consequences of the bloodshed in terms of human and material destruction. He added: Naturally, the agreement was linked to the departure of armed Palestinians from Tripoli and its environs.

Al-Wazir on Syria Dialogue, POW Exchange

GF021450 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 1 Dec 83 pp 1, 15

[Excerpts] The deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), has announced that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is prepared to hold a dialogue with Syria and is willing to go anywhere for dialogue and discussion.

He added in a telephone contact *AL-QABAS* made with him in Tripoli yesterday evening: "We are ready for any dialogue. It is the Syrian authorities who refuse and show no response despite our insistence. Brother Abu 'Ammar says he is prepared to go anywhere for dialogue. He has not closed the door and will never close it."

Abu Jihad stressed: "As of last night, we had received no official answer from any Arab side agreeing to take part in the political committee and to participate in the Arab forces that will disengage the warring forces."

Abi Jihad denied the statement attributed to 'Arafat in which he is said to have criticized the Soviet Union's stand. He said: "I was present when the Egyptian journalist interviewed Abu 'Ammar. What Abu 'Ammar said was: The Soviet Union is caught between the friend and the ally. But he has not so far adopted a definite stand toward Moscow." He added that Abu 'Ammar will stay in Tripoli and has no plans to depart until an agreement is reached.

He said: "We have demanded Arab observers to set and supervise the cease-fire so that it is not violated for any reason. And if the Syrian forces want to make any move, there has to be another party to control the process. We will not ask the United Nations for international forces."

Abu Jihad denied the existence of guarantees for the new agreement and said: "There are moral guarantees." About 'Arafat's meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, Abu Jihad stressed that Hani al-Hasan is currently in Paris to prepare for the meeting. He will meet with French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson today.

Asked about the prisoner exchange, Abu Jihad said: "The process that took place is the first stage. It was accomplished despite difficult circumstances. Negotiations are now taking place with the Red Cross regarding the Israeli bodies, especially since Israel has as usual cheated both us and the Red Cross. Some people have not been released including Ziyad Abu 'Ayn."

PRC Ambassador Pledges New 'Material Aid'

LD030306 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Member of the PLO Executive Committee Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] yesterday evening at the PLO Political Department office met with the PRC ambassador in Tunis, who informed Abu Mazin officially the Chinese Government's decision to offer a new valuable material aid to the PLO. Abu Mazin asked the Chinese ambassador to convey the PLO's and its leader Yasir Arafat's gratitude and appreciation to the people and Government of the PRC for this valuable aid which will contribute to supporting the Palestinian people's steadfastness in their struggle to regain their inalienable and legitimate national rights.

Opposition Spokesman on PNC, Exit of Fighters

GF041402 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 4 Dec 83 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Damascus]

[Text] Mahmud al-Labadi, spokesman for the Fatah "opposition," has denied that any Palestinian party has called for an extraordinary meeting of the PNC. The circumstances of the Palestinian arena do not allow for the convocation of such a meeting, he said.

Al-Labadi affirmed that the Fatah "opposition" still objects to the exit of the any Palestinian fighter with 'Arafat. "Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], the military commander of the opposition, has addressed messages to the fighters calling them to remain on the contact lines with the enemy and to join their brothers and comrades-in-arms," Al-Labadi said.

Al-Labadi said the "opposition" is cooperating fully with the coordination committee headed by [former Lebanese Prime Minister] Rashid Karami. He noted that there are no fighters from the "opposition" in the camps. "Those who are in the camps," he said, "are militias made up of inhibtants of the camps."

Al-Labadi called on the Fatah Central Committee to stop what he called "Yasir 'Arafat's departure for Jordan in order to authorize Jordan to speak on behalf of the Palestinians." "We do not want to be the Trojan horse for recognition of Israel," he said.

Al-Labadi reaffirmed that Fatah will remain one movement and that the opponents will not allow it to be split, and that they are determined to preserve its unity.

On the losses which the "opposition" has suffered, Al-Labadi said: "The opposition and its allies have lost 43 martyrs since differences started 7 months ago."

Should Be on Frontlines

JN041627 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Fatah dissident Spokesman Mahmud al-Labadi said in Damascus today that the anti-'Arafat leaders support the withdrawal of the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli but oppose their departure to states such as Tunisia, Algeria, and the PDRY. He said the Palestinian fighters should be in the states or territories that are adjacent to the Israeli enemy lines.

Abu Mayzar on Shamir-Reagan Talks

JN031656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — In reply to journalists' questions regarding the results of the Shamir-Reagan talks today, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee official spokesman, made a statement in which he stressed that the joint Israeli-U.S. miliatry and political committee that resulted from the Shamir-Reagan talks, within the framework of implementing the strategic cooperation between them, moves the U.S. Administration onto a new hostile role that is more serious and wider than its previous hostile roles against the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation. Abu Mayzar said: The joint Israeli-U.S. military and political committee is only a joint command for the expected aggression that the two sides are preparing for against Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces, in an attempt to subjugate the Arab region under Israeli-U.S. designs.

Abu Mayzar added: The establishment of this joint military and political command between the Israeli enemy and the United States is a slap on the face to those who are wagering on the U.S. role in the Arab region and on U.S. solutions and initiatives. The most important of these solutions and initiatives is the Reagan plan. These solutions and initiatives are aimed at entrenching the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and at liquidating the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, repartiation, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Habib Chatti Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Agreement

LD021412 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1158 GMT 2 Dec 83

[text] Riyadh, 2 Dec (SPA) — Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference, has stressed that the recent agreement between the United States and the Israeli entity is the biggest threat to the Arab and the Islamic nation. In a statement issued today, Habib Chatti said that U.S. alliance with an entity that is in a continuous state of war with its neighbors and which occupies their territories conflicts with this superpower's responsibility for safeguarding world security and with its international commitment to respect other countries' rights to independence and territorial sovereignty, particularly since that power has been expressing a desire for peace in the Middle East as reflected by the Reagan peace initiative.

The secretary general stressed that the signing of these agreements at this very time when Israel insists on staying in Lebanon and continues to build settlements in Palestine and the Golan and rejects every peace plan presented to it, including the plan of U.S. President Reagan himself, is considered support for the entity and encouragement for its aggressive and expansionist policy.

Chatti wondered about the justification which prompted the United States — a country which advocates world peace and which presents peace plans for the Middle East — to ally itself with such an entity. He pointed out that the Zionist enemy is the only country in the history of mankind which lives in a constant state of war and which rejects every peace plan. It is the only entity in this era which is living in a state of war.

Chatti condemned the signing of these agreements between the United States and the Israeli enemy at a time when pressure should be brought on Israel to abandon its aggressive policy, which has sown anarchy in the Middle East and which is threatening world peace. The secretary general of the Islamic Conforence ended his statement by saying this is the new situation facing our nation today and it requres us to shoulder our responsibility toward it in loyalty to our homelands, peoples, and creeds.

Condemns U.S. Air Raids

LD050951 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0910 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 5 Dec (SPA) — Yesterday's sudden development in Lebanon, the strafing of Syrian positions in Lebanon by a squadron of American aircraft for the purpose of retaliation, provokes extreme concern and portends grave consequences threatening security and peace in the region.

This was said in a statement issued by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi circulated in Tunis today. He added it is not by accident that the American forces, which should uphold the peaceful role for which they came to Lebanon, have carried out a direct air strike following the newly announced U.S.-Israeli agreements. This American strafing affirms that that the American-Israeli military presence that was agreed upon aims at striking the Syrian forces so that Israel will remain the only military force in the region.

Klibi expressed the Arab League's regret at this new turn in U.S. policy in the Middle East, warning of the grave consequences which it will have on the nature of relations between the Arab countries and the United States.

Reportage on ICO Meetings in Dhaka

For coverage of the ICO preparatory meeting and 14th conference of Islamic foreign ministers, held in Dhaka beginning 4 December, see the Bangladesh section of the 5 December South Asia *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

BAHRAIN

Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau Pays Visit

Received by Amir

GF030811 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 3 Dec (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini amir, received here this morning Pierre Trudeau, Canadian prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him, who arrived in Manama earlier today. During the meeting, bilateral relations and means of strengthening them in various fields were discussed. The audience was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; the ministers of education, information, finance, and national economy; the director of the prime minister's office; and the Canadian ambassador to Bahrain. Official talks between the Bahraini and Canadian prime ministers will be held later today.

Talks Held in Manama

GF031009 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Official talks were held at Al-Qudaybiyah Palace this morning between the Bahraini side, led by His Highness Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the Canadian side, led by His Excellency Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. On the Bahraini side, the talks were attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Dr 'Ali Muhammad Fakhru, minister of education; Tariq al-Mu'ayyad, minister of information; Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, minister of finance and national economy; Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', director of the prime minister's office; Dr 'Ali ad-Dui, Bahraini consul general in Canada; and 'Ali al-'Urayyid from the prime minister's office. On the Canadian side, they were attended by Ian Wood, Canadian ambassador to Bahrain; M. (Macey), under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; M. (Shelfon), assistant under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (Exortie), prime minister's secretary; Stanford, assistant deputy minister of foreign affairs for Africa and Middle East affairs; and a number of Canadian officials.

WAKH has learned that during the talks, which lasted for 90 minutes, bilateral relations and means of strengthening and consolidating them, particularly in the economic field, were discussed. The two sides also discussed the current Gulf, Arab, and international situation as well as issues of common interest.

Trudeau Departs for Kuwait

GF031016 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Excerpt] His highness the prime minister, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, was at the head of those who saw off His Excellency Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him when he departed Bahrain for Kuwait at 1200 today after a short visit to the country in the framework of his current tour of a number of countries in the region.

Australian Trade Minister Holds Contacts

Meets With Amir

GF030803 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 3 Dec (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini amir, received here this morning Lionel Bowen, Australian deputy prime minister and minister of trade, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Habib Ahmad Qasim, Bahraini minister of commerce and agriculture, and Hasan Nasaf, assistant under secretary for commercial affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture.

Ministers Hold Talks

GF031027 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Habib Ahmad Qasim, minister of commerce and agriculture, met in his office this morning with Lionel Bowen, Australian deputy prime minister and minister of trade. After the meeting, the minister of commerce and agriculture made a statement in which he said they reviewed trade, economic, industrial, and agricultural relations. Both sides expressed their full satisfaction over the development of relations in these fields. He said Bahrain and Australia are linked by 20 years of strong trade relations. They also discussed existing cooperation and prospects of further cooperation between Bahrain and Australia.

Meets Prime Minister

GF031155 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 3 Dec (WAKH) — Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, received at noon Lionel Bowen, Australian deputy prime minister and minister of trade, who is currently visiting Manama, and his accompanying delegation.

Foreign Minister's Meeting

GF031316 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 3 Dec (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah met at noon today with Lionel Bowen, Australian deputy prime minister and minister of trade, and his accompanying delegation who are currently visiting Manama. Bilateral relations and the means to bolster them, especially in political and economic fields, in addition to issues of mutual interest were reviewed during the meeting which was attended by Mr Johnson, consul general of Australia in Bahrain, and Ahmad (Habil), director of the department of trade and companies' affairs at the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture.

Departs 4 Dec

GF040940 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 4 Dec (WAKH) — Lionel Bowen, Australian deputy prime minister and minister of trade, and his accompanying delegation left Manama this morning after a 3-day visit to Bahrain. The Australian official was seen off by Bahraini Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Ahmad al-Qasim and Australian Consul General Johnson. The Australian official held talks with the Bahraini commerce and industry minister on strengthening commercial relations between Bahrain and Australia.

KUWAIT

Papers Comment on U.S. Attacks in Lebanon

LD051126 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Kuwait 5 Dec (KUNA) — The agression against Syrian positions in Jabal, Lebanon, yesterday by U.S. warplanes was the subject of commentary by the local press here. The papers were unanimous in condemning this aggression.

AL-WATAN said that it came as no surprise for those who followed the recent U.S.-Israeli threats, and it came immediately after the U.S.-Israeli agreement to move overtly against the Arab nation. The paper wondered about the dimensions and objectives of the new aggression and said that Reagan himself had answered this question in his initiative that he released at the eve of the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Beirut. After a year and a half, the paper said, starting from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon — which occurred with direct coordination with the United States — the "ugly American" is obliged to remove the mask from his face and enter the conflict himself after it became clear that the Israeli enemy is merely "a giant with feet of clay" and that those feet have been broken at the hands of the armed national resistance.

AL-WATAN emphasized that the myth of the Israeli enemy has not fallen alone in Lebanon; with it fell the heads of the aggression itself, starting with Haig, ending with Begin, and passing through Sharon. However, the gravest loss were the U.S. objectives themselves, none of which has been realized despite the deceptive means used by Reagan's administration: The Lebanese-Israeli agreement did not come into being; the Palestinians did not enter negotiations under the Jordanian umberella; the Phalangists' supremacy over Lebanon did not come to be realized; and the Soviets did not leave Syria.

The paper warned the chief of the White House that he should know that the Arabs — or at least some of them — are ready to die. His fleets will not intimidate them, and his aircraft can fall like paper butterflies.

The paper stressed that Reagan's luck will be no better than the luck of those who have illusions and who have attempted to build their personal glories over the slaughter of the Arab nations. It said: And the last question remains... will those betting on the United States be able to hide themselves behind their fingers?

AL-QABAS said that Lebanon is more like Vietnam than Grenada. Its demographic and topographic features are similar to a huge jungle, and experience has proved so far that any invader who enters it is lost and whoever manages to come out, if he comes out, is reborn. The Israeli soldier used to think that he was the "superman" of the region. Today he is dying in Lebanon the death of flies stuck to flypaper. As for the U.S. Marines, they are not like "Popeye," who could not be burned or sunk. In Lebanon alone and with single blow, 239 Americans were killed. This had never happened before in U.S. wars as far as one can remember.

The paper also said that the Reagan administration is resorting today to a foolish, stupid, and short-sighted policy. It based its calculations on a transient incident and on the coincidental illness of the Syrian and Soviet presidents at the same time. Most likely, President Reagan during Shamir's recent visit to Washington received a handful of "political and military hallucination tablets" that have affected his political decisions in the atmosphere of the frenzied race of the coming u.s. presidential election.

AS-SIYASAH Scores U.S.-Israeli Alliance

GF021530 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 1 Dec 83 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The U.S. Pincers"]

[Text] The United States has announced its overall and final strategic alliance with Israel against the Arabs, particularly the Arabs of Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Jordan. A few hours after the proclamation of this alliance, Washington announced it has decided to establish a permanent headquarters for the RDF in the Arab Gulf region. The U.S. announcement defined the duties of this headquarters as being "to facilitate contacts with governments that are friendly and that host the RDF and the other U.S. military elements in addition to planning and coordinating military maneuvers and participating in administrating the security aid which is donated to this region."

We do not believe we need to have these goals explained since the interpretation given by the U.S. military spokesman was adequate. He vividly defined the goals and pointed out the indisputable formula.

Frankly speaking, we are facing a comprehensive U.S. onslaught that squeezes us, as pincers do, between the Mediterranean and the Arab coasts in the Arab Gulf. In other words, the United States decided, unashamedly, to establish a military-backed security sphere that extends from Lebanon to Somalia and that spreads its influence on all the countries that lie within this space.

If it is claimed that the U.S. goal is to ensure the security of the Arab Gulf, then the simplest facts refute this claim. Why is the United States for Arab security and ensuring Arab interests at a time this is associated with the proclamation of a permanent headquarters in the Arab Gulf and the announcement of this satanic cooperation between the United States and Israel? The only goal behind any U.S. presence in the Arab region — which extends from Lebanon to the Arab Gulf — is to ensure U.S. interests and to guarantee Israel's superiority over the Arabs in addition to enabling the Jewish state to solidify its expansionist presence and impose its coerciveness on the Arab will. We cannot say that preservation of the U.S. interests parallels Arab interests or the Arab fate since there is a basic contradiction between these interests and the Arab belief in sovereign rights. That is why we are not transfixed by the U.S. imperialist inclination toward Israel. The presence of this extraneous entity within the Arab body is designed to execute evil and aggressive goals.

Therefore, this arrogant and frivolous challenge confronts 190 million Arabs and addresses them: I challenge you. Do what you will. Israel — with its 3 million people who come from India, Poland, Africa, and other places in the name of Jewish religion and in the name of the superstitions of the Bible — is more important than that friendship with this or that Arab regime. Moreover, supporting its injustices and aggression is more important than the homeless millions of Palestinians. As for U.S. interests, they are safe as long as the Arab differences escalate daily.

Canadian Prime Minister Holds Talks

LD030216 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, received Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his delegation at 1715 today at the Council of Ministers office. Official talks between the two countries began at 1730. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah led the Kuwaiti side, while the Canadian side was led by Pierre Trudeau. They were attended from the Kuwaiti side by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and minister of information; the minister of public health and planning and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs, Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadi; the minister of communications and head of the accompanying mission of honor, 'Isa Muhammad al-Masidi; Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rashid; Kuwaiti Ambassador to Canada Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir as-Sabah; and the director general of the heir apparent's office, ('Abd al-Latif 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Bahr). From the Canadian side they were attended by senior officials in the accompanying delegation. The talks centered on relations between the two countries, ways to develop them in various spheres, and other questions of mutual interest.

Trudeau Details Position

LD032024 Kuwait KUNA in English 1701 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 3 (KUNA) — Canadian Premier Pierre Trudeau said Saturday that Canada will not recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Speaking to reporters following an official meeting with H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah at the Council of Ministers, Trudeau, however, said Canada supports the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the right to choose "their spokesman" and called on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Trudeau said he saw positive points in the Middle East peace initiative of U.S. President Ronald Reagan which he first announced on Sept. 1, 1982.

The premier pointed out that the official Kuwaiti-Canadian talks covered bilateral ties and boosting investment, trade and technological exchange between the two countries. The negotiations with Kuwaiti officials also dealt with international issues such the Iran-Iraq war, the Lebanese problem and the Middle East.

He said he has been invited to the U.S. and the Soviet Union but decided not to include them in his world tour aimed at reducing international tension and curbing nuclear arms buildup. A decision to visit the two capitals depends on the outcome of the forthcoming NATO meeting in Brussels, Trudeau added. The Canadian premier pointed out that once in Washington and moscow he will pressurize officials there to make progress at the nuclear arms limitation talks. Trudeau said almost all countries he visited including those owning nuclear bombs were unanimous that the two superpowers must first make some progress in negotiations before they could join any international initiative to reduce the world nuclear arsenal.

He said it has been suggested to form a national trading company to boost trade ties with the Gulf countries but added that this necessitates further thinking.

Trudeau Departs 4 Dec

LD041503 Kuwait KUNA in English 1224 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Kuwait, Dec 4 (KUNA) — Canadian Premier Pirre Trudeau left here Sunday concluding a two-day official visit to Kuwait during which he met with H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah and other Kuwaiti officials and businessmen.

Before winding up his visit, the Canadian premier held another round of talks with members of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and representatives of national investment companies in the presence of head of the honorary mission 'Isa al-Masidi, the Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Francis Wood [name as received] the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Canada Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir as-Sabah and director of H.H.'s Office 'Abd al-Latif al-Bahar.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Rashid ar-Rashid told KUNA yesterday the Kuwaiti and Canadian sides had discussed in detail bilateral relations and means of developing them particularly in the economic and investment fields.

Australian Trade Minister Begins Visit

LD041446 Kuwait KUNA in English 1216 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Dec 4 (KUNA) — Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade Lionel Bowen arrived here Sunday from Bahrain for a two-day visit and talks on new prospects of cooperation between his country and Kuwait in the fields of economy and trade. The Australian official was accompanied by a 20-member delegation comprising leading businessmen in his country. He was received at the airport by Minister of Commerce and Industry Jasim al-Marzuq.

In an arrival statement, the Australian official noted that the purpose of his visit is "to assure the Government of Kuwait that the new Government of Australia is anxious to continue the very good relations which existed between the two countries, particularly in the area of economic cooperation and trade." Bowen praised bilateral relations existing between the two countries, and hoped his accompanying business delegation would renew its aquaintances here and discuss new prospects for further consolidation of relations.

Minister Voices Reservations on GCC Security Pact

LD041136 Kuwait KUNA in English 1011 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 4 (KUNA) — Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad stated Sunday that Kuwait has spelled out reservations regarding certain provisions of the draft gulf security pact which, he said are contradictory to the country's constitution and applicable laws. In a statement to *AL-QABAS* daily, the minister who did not single out the said contradictory articles, assured that countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council had shown complete understanding of the Kuwaiti stand, and had called for an expert meeting soon to review all aspects of the security pact.

Commenting on his recent gulf tour, Shaykh Nawwaf said it has been very successful and that its results will soon be felt on the different security fields. Shaykh Nawwaf, who leaves this afternoon for Baghdad to attend a conference of the Arab interior ministers, hoped for closer Arab solidarity and coordination at this critical stage passed by the Arab nation, and described the present state of affairs as "disappointing" in view of Arab disparity and lack of solidarity. Over the last two weeks, Shaykh Nawwaf undertook a tour of four Gulf Cooperation Council states which covered on the first leg each of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, and later Oman Sultanate and the UAE. The Kuwaiti official announced that he will shortly visit Qatar, and added that a date will be fixed during consultations in Baghdad with his Qatari counterpart.

Asked on the recent phenomenon of corruption in the civil service, the minister said that the issue was new to the Kuwaiti society, and warned that offenders will be severely dealt with according to law which applies to all without any leniency. A recent racket was uncovered in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour where some officials were arrested in connection with forged labour and stay permits. The case is still under investigation by the police authorities and implicated officials have been suspended pending trial.

Speaking during Saturday's National Assembly session, a number of deputies, including deputy speaker of the house, levelled accusations of administrative corruption against the ministries of education and public works.

Labor Ministry Forgery Probe Termed 'Sensitive'

GF041235 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 3 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] Investigations into the forgery scandal at Kuwait's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is shrouded in secrecy because of the sensitive nature of the probe, a general prosecution source said yesterday.

Facts revealed to the local press about people arrested for forging work permits bear no relation to the main bribery and forgery scandal, the source said.

The source said the case was extremely complicated and it would be some time before all the facts were established.

The source added that the prosecution was the only authority involved in the investigation, denying earlier reports that a committee had been set up, including representative of the ministry and the general administration for passports, residency and nationality.

OMAN

Second Group of British Jaguars Received

GF041352 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 4 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] The Sultanate of Oman received the second batch of British Jaguar aircraft. An Omani statement said a ceremony was held on this occasion at the aerospace factories in the British city of Brighton and was attended by Fahar ibn Taymur, Omani deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs and chief of staff.

The Sultanate received the first batch of these aircraft in 1977.

Interior Minister Leaves for Iraq

GF041814 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Omani Interior Minister Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib and the delegation accompanying him left for fraternal Iraq this afternoon to attend the second conference of the Arab interior ministers council which will begin in Baghdad tomorrow. Badr ibn Su'ud ibn Harib made a statement to a radio correspondent in which he spoke about the main topics on the agenda. He said: The most important issue which the Arab interior ministers will discuss at their conference is security cooperation between fraternal Arab countries and ways of promoting this cooperation. He said that the conferees will hear a report by the secretary general of technical secretariat of the Arab interior ministers council on what has been achieved since the last conference and that they will also discuss the basic system of the council. His excellency concluded his statement by saying: During my stay in fraternal Iraq, I will have the chance to meet the Arab interior ministers. I will discuss the bilateral relations with them.

His excellency is being accompanied by His Excellency Ahmad Humud al-Ma'mari, Omani ambassador to Iraq; Brigadier 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, assistant inspector general of police and customs; a number of senior Omani police officers; and officials at the Interior Ministry.

PDRY

Radio on U.S. Air Raid on Syrian Positions
GF041920 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 83

[From "News and Comment Program"]

[Excerpt] What will happen after today following the U.S. fighter planes' attack on Syrian positions in the Al-Biqa' valley? What will the circles and regimes in the Arab region use to justify the continuation of their dealings with the United States? These circles and regimes in the Arab region will certainly not remain silent. They will vehemently denounce the U.S. air raids on Syrian positions in Al-Biqa' valley, but is this what is required and will this indicate responsibility?

The Arab masses know the hypocrisy that such circles and regimes in the Arab region, who are friends of the United States, continued to practice. They also know that such circles and regimes are responsible for the threats facing the Arab region and its people, because they provide the United States and the Zionist entity with all the reasons for aggression and hegemony in the Arab region.

The material losses that resulted from the U.S. air raids on the Syrian positions in Al-Biqa' may be big or small, but they can certainly be overcome. What the United States has lost materially is not small either, but what it will never recover is the loss in the illusions and friendships it had hoped would be its path to hegemony and influence in the Arab region and toward submitting the region to its imperialist, colonial and aggressive interests.

Foreign Minister Meets Soviet Ambassador
GF041750 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, YSP Central Committee member and minister of foreign affairs, met today with the Soviet ambassador in Aden. ANA reports that during the meeting, they discussed the latest Middle East developments and exchanged views on issues of common interest and a number of topics of interest to the two friendly countries and means of promoting them.

Chairman Receives USSR Justice Official
GF021746 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Aleksandr Sukharev, first deputy justice minister and head of the Soviet-Yemeni Friendship Association and the delegation accompanying him. The Soviet official apprised the brother secretary general on the activities of the friendship associations in the two friendly countries. He expressed satisfaction at the development of cooperation and coordination between the two associations in addition to the activities undertaken by them among public opinion in the PDRY and the Soviet Union.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also expressed the importance of reinforcing the relations between the friendship associations in the two friendly countries in order to reflect the continuous development of the struggle relations between the parties and peoples of the two friendly countries, which are based on friendship and cooperation in accordance with the great ideas of scientific prolaretarian socialism.

Cuban Foreign Minister Ends Visit 3 Dec
GF031800 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Aden, 3 Dec (WAKH) — Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca left Aden today after a several-days official visit to the PDRY. During the visit the Cuban delegation held talks with PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali on bilateral relations and the current international situation. A protocol of cooperation for 1984-85 was also signed during the visit. The protocol provides for cultural and scientific cooperation between the PDRY and Cuba.

Supreme Party Control Committee Meets
GF042046 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The supreme party control committee held its fifth ordinary session this morning under 'Ali Shayi' Hadi, alternate member of the YSP Political Bureau and the committee's chairman.The committee discussed a number of important party issues relating to the activities of party committees and party control organs on all levels during the year 1983. It also discussed the annual report evaluating the activities of the supreme party committee and party control committees in the governorates and the Armed Forces and the level of the adopted party measures as well as the committee's draft working plan for 1984 and other party issues.

Brother 'Ali Shayi' Hadi expressed his satisfaction over the successes and accomplishments achieved by the supreme party control committee and the party control committees in the governorates and the Armed Forces during 1983, affirming the need to continue to achieve successes to raise the efficiency of their activities to deepen their influence and consolidate the internal organizational structure of the party's internal life in a way that will ensure the party's leading role. Hadi called on party organizations to use the party's experience, which is a good example for the year 1984, and a creative style to continue to achieve the best practical results which will enhance the party's leading role and strengthen its ideological and organizational role by combining theory with practice.

It is worth noting that this session, which is a result of the party's activities of party's control committees for the year 1983, will yield many opinions and recommendations by the supreme party bodies on the party's control activities according to the party's program documents and internal structure.

SAUDI ARABIA

Papers Comment on U.S. Raids in Lebanon

GF050640 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] On the U.S. raid against the Syrian positions in Lebanon, *AL-MADINAH* said: The U.S. air raid on the Syrian positions in Lebanon yesterday pushed events toward a new stage of grave escalation which presages the undermining of all the peace efforts and the moderate positions adopted by the Arab Gulf countries. This development follows other developments that have importance and indications, foremost of which are the attempts to settle the Palestinian-Palestinian dispute. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Syria succeeded in this respect in hammering out the Damascus agreement, the result of which was that blood was no longer shed, the guns in northern Lebanon became silent, and the city of Tripoli escaped imminent disaster. Practical steps are also under way to ensure the disengagement of the warring sides within the Fatah movement, in accordance with the peace settlement among the comrades of the joint struggle and common goal. There are also efforts to settle the Lebanese-Lebanese issue through negotiations among the Lebanese leaders in Geneva.

AL-YAWM says: The violent raids launched by the U.S. jets represent vivid and certain evidence that the U.S.-Israeli agreement — which was nailed down recently during the visit of the murderer Shamir to Washington — has entered the state of de facto implementation.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Raps U.S.-Israeli Agreement

PM021648 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 83 p 2

['Imad ad-Din Adib article: "Is There More?"]

[Text] What Saudi Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar ibn Sultan said about the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement is what should be said and what we want to hear from Arab officials these days. It is inconceivable that any Arab diplomat or official can talk about U.S. favors to the Arab cause while Washington pamers Israel at the expense of the Arabs and their interests.

The U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement is a real threat to the national security of the Arab nation. It also rules out any real flexibility by Israel. It is not true that a "strong Israel" means "an Israel interested in peace." It is not true that the Israeli enemy's psychological fear can be overcome through the possession of cluster bombs and mass destruction aircraft.

What Prince Bandar said about U.S.-Israeli relations is quite true. Israel, as Prince Bandar said, is a strategic burden, not a strategic asset, for the United States. He also said: The Israelis have always wanted something without ever giving anything in return.

I in turn would like to ask: How much more will the United States give Israel? How much more than it has already given since the birth of the so-called state of Israel? Is there more than cluster bombs, atomic bombs, arms industries, and concessions of the kind not granted even to U.S. companies? Is there yet more than the $3,000 Israel is costing every American citizen every year? Is there yet more than the adamant refusal to publicly or officially condemn Israel in any international organization?

Is the election of the U.S. president that costly? What kind of so-called superpower is the United States?

Foreign Minister Departs for Oman

LD050859 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0817 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh 5 Dec (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Al Sa'ud, the foreign minister, left Riyadh this morning heading for the Sultanate of Oman on a visit during which he will deliver a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to the sultan of Oman, Qabus ibn Sa'id, pertaining to Arab affairs and current developments.

King Fahd Receives Cypriot Minister

LD031214 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1138 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Dec (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received in his office at the Royal Court today Cypriot Minister of Communications and Works Khristos Mavrellis, who conveyed a message to him from President Spiros Kiprianou. The meeting was attended by His Royal Higness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and commander of the National Guard.

Nicosia Radio Report

NC032039 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 2000 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Saudi King Fahd has given assurances that his country unreservedly supports a united Cyprus, and he stressed the need for a peaceful solution of the Cyprus issue without external interference. The Saudi monarch's assurances were given to Minister of Communications Mavrellis, who, within the framework of his tour of Persian Gulf states, was received by King Fahd today.

During the 45-minute meeting, Mavrellis briefed the Saudi monarch in detail on the recent developments of the Cyprus issue and handed him a personal message from President Kiprianou on the illegal declaration of a Turkish Cypriot state in Cyprus' occupied territory.

Fahd Receives British Trade Secretary

LD041436 Riyadh SPA in English 1233 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 4, SPA — HM King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received here today visiting British Trade and Industry Secretary Norman Tebbit. The royal audience was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Commerce Minister Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyi and British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Craig. Earlier today, the British minister met with Saudi Planning Minister Hisham Nazir. The meeting concentrated on questions of mutual concern including prospects of Britain's contribution to the kingdom's forthcoming developing programme since the country is about to make transition from the stage of setting up infrastructure to the production phase, particularly in petrochemicals. Nazir said the British minister had been briefed on the kingdom's development strategy for the coming years. Tebbit arrived here on Friday night at the invitation of Saudi Commerce Minister Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyim.

Secretary Holds Talks

LD031632 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1037 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Dec (SPA) — His Excellency Commerce Minister Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyim this morning met with British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Norman Tebbit, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by Commerce Ministry Under Secretary Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman Az-Zamil, Supplies Ministry Under Secretary Tawfiq Ibrahim Tawfiq, Director of Hotels 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir, and Director of Foreign Trade Rashid al-Bakr. On the British side it was attended by Ambassador to the Kingdom James Craig and the delegation accompanying the secretary of state.

Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyim said after the meeting that there had been a discussion of trade relations between the Kingdom and Britain and the extent of their development. His highness stressed that the Kingdom's market is regarded by Britain as one of the world's most important markets. He said that manufactured goods and products exported by Britain to the Kingdom have alleviated the problem of unemployment there. Dr as-Sulayyim said that he also discussed measures aimed at simplifying export operations for Britain and imports for the Kingdom, including certificates of origin and the boycott of Israel. His Highness explained that the British secretary of state expressed his country's readiness to contribute to projects in the Kingdom, especially as regards maintenance, services, and administration. His Highness pointed out that the Kingdom has begun exporting petrochemical products to Britain and that the Kingdom will increase exports next year in order to win markets for these petrochemical products.

For his part, the British secretary of state said that the meeting was positive and that he briefed His Highness Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyim about changes in Britain that make us more confident as a trading partner of satisfying some of the needs of the Saudi market. He said that he has seen the progress experienced by the Kingdom, and particularly in the economic domain, which makes us understand saudi policies on the world market as a whole.

The british secretary of state stressed that the British market is open to world products, except for minor restrictions imposed on them, and certain quarters in Britain are complaining about these restrictions. He added that his country is tied to its EEC partners and that it encourages its partners to have open markets.

YAR

Soviet Justice Official Arrives for Talks

GF040701 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Aleksandr Sukharev, first deputy USSR justice minister [and chairman of the society] for friendship with the Arab countries, arrived in San'a' today on a visit of several days to the Republic during which he will hold talks with the relevant officials on bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Saudi Health Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

GF031152 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Health Minister Dr Gazi al-Qusaybi arrived in San'a' this afternoon on a visit to the YAR. He stated on his arrival that the message he is going to convey from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih deals with bilateral relations and efforts being exerted to ensure the success of the next Arab summit conference in Riyadh. He said he will exchange views with YAR Public Health Minister Dr Muhammad al-Kabab on enhancing and expanding the existing health cooperation between the two countries. His excellency said he will seize this opportunity to deliver the Saudi citizens' contributions to their Yemeni brothers who were afflicted by the earthquake disaster at the end of last year. It has been announced that these contributions, which will be delivered to the supreme council for the reconstruction of the damaged areas, amounted to about 57 million Saudi riyals.

In another statement, Dr al-Kabab welcomed Dr al-Qusaybi's visit, which will enhance the solid cooperation between the two countries in the medical and health fields. He expressed the gratitude of the YAR Government and people for the feelings of their brothers in the Kingdom in extending aid to the victims of the earthquake disaster. He praised the Kingdom's great role in aiding and assisting the fraternal YAR people in general and in reconstructing the afflicted areas in particular.

Mubarak Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Accord

NC031535 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has said that the strategic cooperation that has been agreed upon between the United States and Israel will constitute an obstacle in the road of peace if it is implemented in the way it was announced. In a statement following his meeting with the Arab Contractors soccer team, President Mubarak said: We do not yet know the motives that prompted this agreement. We are waiting to see what is behind it and we will get the details from the United States. The president said the United States should be an arbitrator and should not be biased in favor of any side. He said: I believe this strategic cooperation will anger the moderate countries in the region and those maintaining good relations with the United States. Asked whether the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation would make the Middle East a scene of war between the two superpowers, President Mubarak said: I cannot comment on this topic until I know all its details.

Commenting on the recent report on the suspension [tajmid] of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, President Mubarak said Israel rejects any amendment. He added: Let us wait and see if the agreement has been truly suspended and then obtain a report from the United States regarding the next step. Asked about Egypt's relations with Israel, President Mubarak said: Our relations with Israel are the same as with any other country. President Mubarak said the recall of the Egyptian ambassador [from Israel] was an irrevocable decision, and his return hinges on the complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and on maintaining the momentum of the Palestinian cause. To a question about the possibility of Egypt helping Yasir 'Arafat, President Mubarak said: I agreed to allow wounded Palestinians to be treated in Cairo on humanitarian grounds. He denied reports that Egypt had sent arms to 'Arafat's forces. He said: We welcome Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo and we do not prevent him from coming to Egypt.

More on Mubarak Reaction

NC041317 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and Niger head of state Seyni Kountche held a meeting this morning. Following the 3 and 1/2-hour meeting, President Mubarak was asked about Egypt's stand regarding the U.S.-French [as received] attack this morning against Syrian positions on Lebanese territory. He said: I cannot comment on this without learning all the details. Asked about the best options that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat can take at present and whether he should go to Egypt or Jordan to hold a dialogue with King Husayn, Pesident Muabrak said: The best situation for the Palestinianissue now is negotiations between Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn in order to reach results that enable the holding of negotiations to give momentum to the U.S. President's peace initiative. Asked about the future of Lebanon and whether it will become an arena for fighting between the superpowers, President Mubarak said: I do not believe that the situation there will reach such a proportion. Asked whether he believes that the U.S.-Israeli agreement will encourage the Israelis to launch further military activities in the Middle East, President Mubarak said: Of course, if it is true that there is such strategic cooperation, it will be a catastrophe.

He added: This will impede the entire peace process and all the U.S. friends will be in a difficult position. I hope that this is not true. I have, to date, not received any definite information on what has happened within the framework of what is called the agreement and whether it is real.

President Mubarak affirmed to reporters that the Egyptian ambassador will not return to Israel unless the Israelis withdraw from Lebanon and there is progress in the Palestinian issue and the Tabah question.

Al-Baz Meets With Secretary of State Shultz

NC041000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Washington, 4 Dec (MENA) — Usamah al-Baz held a meeting with George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, to convey to him the Egyptian Government's viewpoint regarding the strategic cooperation agreement recently concluded between the United States and Israel.

The meeting, which was held at the State Department last night, was attended on the Egyptian side by Ashraf Ghurbal, Egyptian ambassador in Washington, and Muhammad az-Zughbi, ambassador plenipotentiary; and on the U.S. side by Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. presidential envoy to the Middle East, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Pelletreau.

MENA has learned that the meeting dealt with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington and the regrettable results of the visit. The meeting also dealt with the crisis in Lebanon and the Middle East problem in light of the Reagan-Shamir talks and the Reagan-Al-Jumayyil talks.

People's Assembly on U.S.-Israeli Agreement

NC041401 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] During its meeting today under the chairmanship of Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee expressed concern over the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement, which could constitute an obstacle to peace and push Israel toward pursuing a more obdurate line.

The committee stressed the need for achieving the minimum Arab soldiarity in order to confront the latest developments in the Arab region. The committee affirmed that Egypt firmly supports the Palestinian people and considers that the Palestinian problem is the core of the Middle East crisis.

The committee members called on all sides to keep their hands off Lebanon and to face all partition attempts. The committee praised Egyptian diplomacy and its efforts which led to Egypt's elections as a UN Security Council member.

Press Reaction to U.S.-Israeli Agreement

AL-AHRAM, AL-JUMHURIYAH Comment

NC030900 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 3 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial "Danger of Bias in Favor of Israel," *AL-AHRAM* says: The U.S. role as a full partner in the peace process runs counter to the possibilities of bias in favor of one side against another, or to the disregard for the Arab side's rights to please Israel on the pretext of facing dangers surrounding the Middle East, while the big danger lies in the disregard for the causes of tension, anxiety, and suffering — foremost of which are the occupation of Arab lands and the disavowal of the Palestinian people's rights. *AL-AHRAM* believes that the removal of tension and confrontation of the dangers surrounding the area requires the return to peaceful coexistence among the Middle East peoples and the termination of Israel's occupation of territories in Syria, Lebanon, West Bank, Gaza, and Arab Jerusalem, as well as a speedy conclusion of the problem of Egyptian Tabah.

AL-AHRAM explains that the United States has military and political cooperation with the NATO countries, but these countries do not occupy the land of others, do not exercise aggression against others, and do not threaten the security, safety, and borders of other countries. This is not so in the case of cooperation between the United States and Israel,because the Arab lands are still occupied and the Arab-Israeli conflict has not been solved yet.

In conclusion, *AL-AHRAM* says that the resort to threats over the Egyptian ambassador's return to Tel Aviv is a peripheral issue which has to do with Israel's stands and practices in the area. It adds that Yitzhaq Shamir's tone, as used at the U.S. Congress reflects the danger of the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation which gives the Tel Aviv government the chance and possibility of using an accent and expressions incompatible with the spirit of peace and the norm of dealing approved by international and regional agreements and treaties.

Under the headline "Partner in Occupation," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* expresses the conviction that regardless of the justifications made by some people to defend the conclusion of a strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, there is a clear fact which must be dealt with, namely, that through this agreement the United States has placed itself as a partner of Israel, which is now occupying the territories of three Arab countries — Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon — in addition to the Palestinian territory on which the state of Israel has been established.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: It might have been acceptable to some people if this agreement had been a security guarantee by the United States to Israel to induce it to withdraw from the occupied territories to which it clings, ostensibly for security reasons, but actually because of its insatiable expansionist appetite. However, it is regrettable that the United States has ignored this fundamental issue by giving Israel support that will not only entrench its occupation, but will also lead to providing a suitable cover for a new aggression. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens' insinuations about joint U.S.-Israeli military operations against Syria in Lebanon are a first Israeli reading of this ill-omened agreement. Israel has always made a superpower — the United States — into a mere financer and supporter of the expansionist Israeli plans in the area. Now that the agreement has been signed, Israel is getting ready to ride the U.S. horse for new belligerency. Concluding,*AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: We do not deny that the Arab discord, which Egypt has repeatedly tried to heal, has been a reason for the U.S. decision to establish an alliance with Israel. However, we must not forget that the United States was a cause for this discord when it abandoned its promises to the moderate Arabs to find a just and comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. The United States has the means to impose this solution on Israel if it so wants.

U.S.-Israeli Agreement 'Not Unexpected'

NC031451 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 83

['Atif al-Ghamri commentary]

[Text] The United States and Israel have announced an agreement aimed at increasing political and military cooperation, taking additional steps to bolster Israel's security, increasing cooperation between the [word indistinct] of the two countries, and exempting Israel from repaying its debts to the United States. This agreement was not unexpected. It falls within the fundamental concept of Israel's strategic position from the point of view of President Reagan's foreign policy. This is true despite the fact that there are some considerations that give an ambiguous image to this agreement. If we start probing these considerations, we will find that the Reagan initiative for the settlement of the Palestinian problem was rejected by Israel, despite the fact that the U.S. Administration is still stressing its insistence on this initiative as a major U.S. Middle East policy goal.

The second consideration is that the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon has not been completed. There are still obstacles placed in its way, as well as complaints and misgivings about the Israeli Government's willingness to pull ouut of Lebanon. In fact, all the signs affirm that Israel is taking measures and arrangements consistent with a long stay for its forces in south Lebanon. It is well-known that the U.S. Government had arranged the Israeli-Lebanese accord for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and that the United States bears special responsibility for the completion of this withdrawal. The logical conclusion to be drawn from these two considerations is that the United States should have exerted enough pressure on Israel so it would accept the Reagan initiative and complete its withdrawal from Lebanon, instead of bolstering its political and military relations with Israel and offering it economic aid prior to the realization of these declared U.S. policy goals.

However, the truth is that the recent contacts within the context of the U.S.-Israeli agreement embody the U.S. Administration's concept of the Middle East. This concept relates all that happens in the Middle East to the U.S.-Soviet global conflict. This concept was debated in the period following President Reagan's accession to office. The result was a rearrangement of the Reagan administration's priorities in such a way that the confrontation of Soviet influence in the Middle East gained precedence over the solution of the Palestinian problem. The reason is that the Reagan administration regards the lack of stability in the area as a consequence of Soviet intervention, and not of the absence of a solution to the Palestinian problem. In keeping with this concept, the recent U.S.-Israeli agreement is mainly taking into account the peril of the Soviet presence in the Middle East; or, as Yitzhaq Shamir put it: It is a new strategic relationship implying an unconditional alliance against the Soviet Union in the Middle East. Thus, the declaration of this agreement did not fall in the realm of the expected, but it is still consistent with the Reagan administration's concept of the events, crises, and conflicts in the Middle East.

Israeli Embassy Denies Reports on Shamir Request

NC051115 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA) — MENA has learned that the Israeli Embassy in Cairo has made a firm denial to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry regarding recent news agency reports to the effect that the Israeli prime minister referred to the issue of U.S. aid to Egypt during his visit to Washington.

It also denied reports that Israel asked the United States to consider using this aid to stimulate Egyptian-Israeli relations and the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv.

Mubarak Reportedly Offers 'Invitation' to 'Arafat

NC051110 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 5 Dec (MENA) — PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he received an invitation from President Husni Mubarak to host him in Cairo after he departs Tripoli. He said he has received similar invitations from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Husayn of Jordan, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, and from Aden.

In a statement for today's issue of the Lebanese newspaper *AL-LIWA'*, 'Arafat said he would first go to visit the prisoners who were released from the [Israeli] detention camp, then to the political headquarters in Tunis, and then to the military headquarters in Aden.

Asked about his departure and the departure of Palestinian fighters loyal to him, 'Arafat said he is waiting for Rashid Karami, chairman of the Higher Coordination Committee, to advise him of the steps he proposes for starting the departure.

He said there is no specific date for the departure and that the date will be set after he receives Karami's proposals. 'Arafat stressed that the most important thing for him, after his loyal forces depart Tripoli, is to be reassured about the safety and security of the city of Tripoli, as well as of the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps. He announced his full and absolute support for the Syrian Army in the confrontation with the barbaric U.S.-Israeli aggression.

President Mubarak Meets With Political Group

NC050820 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak held a meeting with the political group at the Al-'Urubah Palace this morning to discuss the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah; Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minsiter and foreign minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

'Ali Comments on Meeting

NC051208 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that President Mubarak's meeting with the political group was for the purpose of reviewing the current situation in the area, as well as the conflicting reports on the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement. In a statement to Egyptian and foreign correspondents following the meeting, 'Ali said the participants reviewed the U.S. assurances to Egypt conveyed during U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' meeting with Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary, and Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, Egyptian ambassador to Washington on 3 December.

'Ali explained that the U.S. assurances confirmed that the United States views it necessary to maintain its strong relations with Egypt and the Arab states, to continue to promote the efforts for a political settlement of the Middle East problem on the basis of the Reagan initiative, and that it welcomes PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's announced desire to resume negotiations with Jordan on the basis of the Reagan plan.

'Ali also said there are assurances that the U.S.-Israeli agreement will absolutely not affect U.S. endeavors to promote the efforts for a settlement, not only of the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue, but also of all the aspects of the Lebanese problem. 'Ali said the meeting also discussed the current situation in Tripoli and the need to stop the fighting among the PLO factions and halt foreign intervention in PLO affairs. Asked about Egyptian reaction to the current events in Lebanon and the recent U.S. air attack on Syrian positions, 'Ali said this point was one of the main topics discussed with President Mubarak today. Certainly, Egypt calls for self-restraint and nonescalation of the situation in the area. We hope that all parties will make efforts to reach a peaceful solution for the problems in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Asked about Egypt's previous calls on the United States for self-restraint and whether the current U.S. military operations in Lebanon mean that the United States has ignored Egypt's advice, 'Ali said the Pentagon believes it is necessary to retaliate against any cease-fire violation. Therefore, we appeal to all parties to display self-restraint and respect the cease-fire. Asked about his view of the continuing presence of U.S. forces in Lebanon in light of the recent events, 'Ali said this subject is connected with the need for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. When this happens, there will be no need for the Multinational Forces. We believe it is necessary for all the communities in Lebanon to reach an agreement on national reconciliation. No foreign power should interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs. The foreign forces should withdraw from Lebanon, and Lebanon's national unity, stability, and independence should be maintained.

Answering another question on the involvement of the U.S. forces in the area to the point where they attacked the Syrian positions, 'Ali said this is why Egypt calls for self-restraint so that reconciliation and a final settlement can be reached through negotiations. Asked how much Egypt is convinced by U.S. explanations concerning the attack on the Syrian positions in Lebanon, 'Ali said we have not received any explanation so far about this. We have only obtained the information issued in this connection by the Pentagon.

Asked whether U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, 'Ali said we have received no confirmation that he will arrive tomorrow. However, the idea of his coming to Cairo does exist.

Asked about reports that Cairo will be one of the capitals where Yasir 'Arafat will stop after he leaves Tripoli, 'Ali said Egypt had previously declared that it welcomes a visit to Cairo by 'Arafat at any time.

Soviet Delegation Signs Trade Protocol, Departs

NC031102 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Ivan Grishin, Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this morning for home following a week-long visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Soviet deputy minister signed a protocol for trade cooperation between the two countries for 1984 valued at 500 million pounds sterling.

The Soviet Union will import cotton and several other products from Egypt, according to the protocol. It is noteworthy that the Soviet delegation includes 12 members representing the Ministries of Foreign Trade, Planning [as received], and Finance, and the export and import agencies.

Reportage on Visit of Niger President Kountche

Arrives in Cairo

NC031601 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA) — Seyni Kountche, chairman of Niger's Supreme Military Council and its head of state, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 4-day official visit to Egypt during which he will hold talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on a number of important African, Arab, and international issues. The talks will also deal with ways of strengthening bilateral relations. The official talks between the two countries are scheduled to begin at Al-Qubbah Republican Palace tomorrow morning.

Meets Mubarak, Talks Begin

NC041025 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text]Official talks began at the Al-Qubbah Palace this morning between President Husni Mubarak and Seyni Kountche, chairman of Niger's Supreme Military Council and Niger head of state. The Egyptian and Niger delegations to the talks also held a meeting. This morning, the Niger president placed wreaths on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Tomb of late President Anwar as-Sadat.

'Ali Comments on Talks

NC041340 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that President Husni Mubarak's talks with Niger President Seyni Kountche dealt with the situation in Africa, especially the problems facing the OAU. The talks also dealt with the situation in the Middle East, especially the Lebanese and Palestinian problems, and the two countries' stands toward these problems. The two countries' viewpoints toward these problems were identical. The two presidents also discussed ways of strengthening bilateral relations in all the economic, cultural, and information fields. It was decided to form a joint committee to continue to discuss topics of mutual interest to the countries. It was agreed to study Niger's request for Egyptian experts in all fields.

'Ali said that military cooperation between Egypt and several African countries is continuing. There are no specific demands from Niger in this respect, but the joint committee will discuss all military matters.

Asked if a U.S. envoy has arrived in Cairo to brief the Egyptian officials on the details of the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Ambassador Ashraf Ghurbal and Dr Usamah al-Baz met yesterday with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and U.S. Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld, and held a 2-hour dialogue during which they discussed the situation in the area and the cooperation between the United States and the Arab countries, including Egypt. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the situation is now being discussed, particularly in the wake of the ongoing escalation in Lebanon. He added: We hope that the situation will not be further exacerbated. All parties must exercise self-restraint, as President Husni Mubarak said in his message to President Reagan 2 months ago.

Ghali Interview in Lebanese Daily Cited

NC021339 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 2 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has affirmed that the dialogue among Lebanese parties is an easy matter; however, there are non-Lebanese parties that interfere in the problem and pressure the Lebanese opposition forces so as to prevent a Lebanese reconciliation. In his interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine

AS-SAYYAD, published today, Dr Ghali said that the Lebanese officials have assured him that the real trouble is not the national reconciliation — the various factions have coexisted since 1943. The trouble is not so much internal as it is external; resulting from external forces exercising pressure on some Lebanese parties so as to preclude the reconciliation.

Dr Ghali stressed that Egypt's stand is that national reconciliation is important and necessary in this given stage, because it is through this reconciliation that more international support could be won in order to solve the Lebanese problem. Any success achieved in the national reconciliation conference in Geneva will strengthen this support. The Egyptian official said that the Egyptian drive on the Lebanese crisis has two objectives: The first one is to encourage self-restraint, to impede an eruption in the situation, and to prevent reprisal to the explosions at the U.S. and French headquarters. This objective has already been achieved; the message which President Mubarak sent to President Reagan played a role in this respect. The second objective, Dr Ghali said, was to use the incident so as to mobilize public opinion and bring about new constructive measures to control the situation. The Egyptian official pointed out that the Egyptian drive managed to underscore that the real reason behind this escalation was the Palestinian problem, which is at the heart of the issue and which has not reached a solution, and that the Lebanese problem occupied the focus of attention. This was the aim of the Israeli intervention in Lebanon some 15 months ago.

However, the Egyptian move came to connect all the threads and exert influence. This move is not confined to reaction, it contributes new ideas. Dr Butrus Ghali emphasized that Egypt supports the legitimate government in Lebanon and that Egypt approves of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement as long as Lebanon approves of it. He said that this is the reason for Egypt's approval of the agreement after it was signed. The minister of state for foreign affairs pointed out that Lebanon did not approve of linking the Israeli withdrawal with the Syrian withdrawal. He said that this linkage occurred through another agreement between Israel and the United States and not between Israel and Lebanon or between Lebanon and the United States. Dr Ghali explained that Egypt supports turning the Multinational Force into an international force belonging to the United Nations. This will give it international status and political significance, because Soviet-U.S. agreement is needed to form such an international force.

Ghali Dissatisfied With U.S.-Israeli Pact

NC022014 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has expressed Egypt's dissatisfaction ['adam irtiyah] with the strategic agreement between the United States and Israel. He said this agreement does not serve the cause of peace and (?represents) a bias toward Israel. The United States cannot play a role of a full partner in the peace process unless its stand is balanced between Israel and Arab rights. In a statement today, Ghali said that according to this agreement, the United States gives Israel a privilege without a quid pro quo and this ignores Palestinian and Arab rights.

Delegation Issues Statement on Tripoli Visit

PM021531 [Editorial report] Cairo *ASH-SHA'B* in Arabic 29 November 1983 carries on pages 3 and 17 the 3,000-word text of a statement issued by the Egyptian popular delegation on its visit to Tripoli, Lebanon, and talks with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian and Lebanese representatives. The delegation was led by Socialist Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shurki and included representatives of the NPUG, the Liberal Party, political and patriotic forces, members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, professional and trade unions, the Egyptian National Committee for Solidarity With the Lebanese and Palestinian people, and the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, as well as a medical delegation representing Egyptian doctors and a press delegation representing Egyptian national and party newspapers. The statement says that the delegation went to Tripoli to confirm "commitment to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and underline the need for its unity and independent national decisions and for nondomination and noninterference in its affairs, as well as commitment to the PLO's legitimate and elected leadership represented by its Executive Committee under the chairmanship of Brother Yasir 'Arafat, commander in chief of the revolution's forces." The visit was also a gesture of commitment to the Palestinian revolution "as an Arab revolution which practices and relies on armed struggle and considers armed popular revolution imperative for the liberation of Palestine and as a means of confronting U.S.-Zionist alliance."

The statement says that, in addition to Yasir 'Arafat, the delegation met with other Palestinian and Lebanese representatives,including Islamic Unification Movement leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, as well as "Syrian and Libyan soldiers, and soldiers of other nationalities, who had been recruited for aggression and have since been captured by the PLO." The statement says that the PLO leadership expressed profound appreciation of the faith in the Egyptian people and their effective support for the PLO. The Egyptian popular delegation, the statement adds, held a dialogue with all the Palestinian and Lebanese forces it could meet with under the circumstances. "The Palestinian and Lebanese brothers explained to the Egyptian popular delegation the dangers resulting from the use of the dissidents as a cover for Syrian-Libyan intervention and for laying siege to the Palestinian and Lebanese forces in Tripoli. It became clear to the Egyptian popular delegation that the Israeli Navy was blockading the city. It was also clear that, despite the numerous cease-fire agreements, the forces surrounding the city and the camps did not honor these agreements." The statement noted that the "positions of the Egyptian popular delegation, the PLO, and the Lebanese brothers were identical on the question of confronting imperialist U.S.-Zionist designs." The statement says that the dialogue with the Palestinian and Lebanese representatives in Tripoli lasted 3 days, 21-23 November. On page 3 *ASH-SHA'B* carries the 200-word 'Arafat message to the Egyptian people expressing gratitude to Egypt and the Egyptian popular delegation and confidence "that Egypt's support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people will be decisive in bringing about an end to the current conflict in the interest of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation."

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,298

JN021657 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA) — An Iraqi military communique issued tonight says that the Iraqi forces killed six Iranians and destroyed three infantry positions and one medium machinegun emplacement.

Communique No 1,298, issued by the Armed Forces General Command, adds that the Iraqi forces also destroyed one enemy vehicle and wounded several enemy troops during their activities in the fighting sectors yesterday evening and today.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,298 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our Armed Forces' brave sons are continuing their successful activities against the aggressor Iranian forces in order to keep the great Iraqi people away from evil and harm. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing five and destroying two infantry positions.

2. Our forward units opened fire on the enemy positions opposite our positions east of Basra, killing one, wounding others, and destroying one vehicle, one infantry position, and one medium machinegun emplacement.

3. Today, the suspect Iranian regime shelled Mandali and its environs with artillery, causing damage to an elementary school and other civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 December 1983

Communique No 1,299

JN031725 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,299 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 3 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As long as the suspect Khomeyniite clique persists in its aggression against great Iraq and seeks to harm the militant Iraqi people and their lofty edifice, it will find the zealous Iraqi sons ready to teach the aggressors the harsh lessons they deserve. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite one of our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our forces pounded the enemy concentration with all types of weapons, killing one and destroying one observation post.

2. During their activities opposite our forward units' positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, our combat patrols found quantities of both serviceable and destroyed weapons and military hardware. It has been ascertained that enemy losses sustained in other areas in the same sector, in addition to what was mentioned in our communique dated 29 November 1983, amount 15 killed and many others wounded.

3. One of our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration opposite our positions in the Maysan sector with all types of weapons, killing one and forcing the others to flee.

4. The evil Khomeyniite regime today shelled Mandali and (Shandri) and their suburbs, damaging several civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 December 1983

Communique No 1,300

JN041658 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1624 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA) — Iraq's forward units have pounded two Iranian enemy concentrations in the northern and central sectors of the front killing three and destroying one vehicle, one observation post, and one infantry position. Military communique No 1,300 issued tonight said that the Iranian artillery today shelled Mandali and Halabjah and the (Shandri) area damaging a number of civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,300 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The spiteful Iranian regime's war of aggression against our country enters the 4th month of the 4th year today. Our forces are continuing their operations at the front, affirming their clear victories over the Iranian forces of aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Sighting an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the central sector of the front, our forward units opened fire killing two enemy soldiers and destroying one vehicle and one observation post.

2. Using artillery, our forward units opened fire at an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the northern sector of the front destroying one infantry position. In another area of the same sector, our combat patrol units found a number of serviceable weapons and various kinds of military equipment.

3. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

4. The spiteful Iranian regime's artillery today shelled the cities of Mandali and Halabjah, and the (Shandri) area and its environs damaging a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 December 1983

President's Interview With Cairo AL-AHRAM

JN021547 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said that the war with Iran will end when the Iranian rulers who desire expansion become convinced that their objectives cannot be achieved.

Saddam added that Iraq has no conditions for ending the war but has principles based on each country's respect for the other and respect for the sovereignty over each country's land and water, as well as each side's respect of the other's internal affairs and noninterference in them. Each side must act positively in order to guarantee the region's security and not to jeopardize the security of the Arab Gulf area. He affirmed that Iran so far could not achieve anything that can affect the balance of power, and stressed that Iran will not be able to achieve this end.

This came in President Saddam's interview with Cairo *AL-AHRAM* which was published today.

Saddam said that Iraq can force the Iranian Army to retreat deep inside the Iranian territories if it wants this to happen. He noted in this regard that Iraq had previously penetrated into Iran and reached the rear of the city of Mahran easily and within a few hours.

The president said: When we believe that reaching deep inside any part of the Iranian territories is important in regard to military calculations, we will do so.

Regarding Iraq's using of the French Super Etendard planes, Saddam explained that Iraq has not used them so far, alluding to the fact that the recent Iraqi blows that were directed against Iranian naval units and commercial ships were blows from the Iraqi Air Force.

Saddam said that these planes will not improve a state of weakness because Iraq's fighting capabilities, expertise, and determination are good and available.

Concerning Iran's capabilities to close the Strait of Hormuz, Saddam said that Iran will hesitate more than anyone else before it closes the Strait because by doing so, it will be like the one who closes the cabinet while he is inside it. He added that even if the Strait was closed, it would not be closed for long because there are numerous and vital world interests that pass through it — and these interests are humanitarian and legal.

Concerning the U.S. and USSR stand toward the war, Saddam said that in the beginning, both the United States and the USSR were in agreement on the continuation of war and during the past 2 years these two countries understood Iraq and Iran better. However, U.S. and USSR arms are still being supplied to Iran in one way or another.

Saddam expressed satisfaction with the USSR's return to the framework of friendly relations with Iraq and with U.S. understanding of the conflict and dangers of the irresponsible Iranian behavior in the region.

Concerning his belief on whether Khomeyni's death will end the war, President Saddam said that Khomeyni's death does not necessarily mean the war will end, but it would create new circumstances that would reflect positively on ending the war. Furthermore, Khomeyni remaining in power does not necessarily mean the continuation of the war.

With regard to Iraq's economic situation during the war, Saddam said that Iraq's economy does not depend on one source. It cannot collapse if oil exports stop. He added that Iraq's economic institutions are currently doubling their efforts and operating better than they used to before the war.

President Saddam praised Arab aid to Iraq, particularly from the Arab Gulf countries —foremost of which being the aid presented by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He explained that this aid is a main economic tributary to confront the war's difficult circumstances.

Concerning his assessment of the Arab countries' stand toward the war, Saddam said that Arab solidarity with Iraq, in order to face the war, is still less than is needed. He called on the Arabs to promote their support for Iraq to a higher level, alluding to the fact that the Iraqi Army participated in defending Arab territories in the battles of 1948, 1967, and 1973.

Regarding Egypt's supplying Iraq with arms, Saddam said: Our Egyptian brothers are providing us with good purchases of arms and equipment, which make us always remember Egypt with pride. He explained that the relations between Egypt and Iraq are not exclusively relegated to military purchases, but have grown into the type of relations that bind him with President Husni Mubarak. He expressed readiness to visit Egypt at any time, and welcomed any visit Mubarak might pay to Iraq. He explained that for this reason Zionist organs worked for the initiation and continuation of the war.

Concerning his assessment of the current Arab situation, President Saddam expressed his conviction on the possibility of Arab regimes agreeing to the minimum number of stands that can be developed in the future. He affirmed that Arab action's dependence on the rejection by Syria and Libya of the pan-Arab rapprochement process is dangerous and must be overcome. He stressed the need for the adoption of Arab resolutions by unanimity and the amendment of the Arab League charters in this regard.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, President Saddam Husayn indicated the seriousness of the Syrian and Libyan interference in this situation. He said that Iraq rejects this interference, which is aimed at liquidating the Palestinian question. The president reiterated Iraq's unreserved support for the PLO's legitimate leadership and indicated the need to continue the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

He expressed his conviction on the possibility of Syrian military interference in Jordan and said that Syria will undertake such an interference when it feels that it will obtain results similar to those it planned for in Lebanon.

The following is the interview President Saddam Husayn recently gave to journalist Ibrahim Nafi', chief editor of the Egyptian newspaper *AL-AHRAM*, and published today.

Mr President: We were late to see you because I was scheduled to have breakfast with the military commanders which was only supposed to take a certain amount of time. However, the report of the chief of intelligence dragged us to another subject and the talks took up part of the time fixed for your appointment. You are welcome as an Arab in your country.

Journalist: We also appreciate your circumstances because Your Excellency has to assume the burdens of the state, war, and other affairs.

Mr President: We thank God because each of the comrades is carrying out his duty in a capable manner. Thus, they have relieved us of some burdens. We assume only what directly affects us of this heavy burden due to the national and pan-Arab responsibility we assume toward our people. Thanks be to God, for every comrade is performing his duty splendidly and with solidarity.

Journalist: The last time I visited Baghdad was in 1972 when I was working in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. When I visited Baghdad this time I honestly did not believe my eyes.

Mr President: Of course, for Baghdad has radically changed.

Journalist: Mr President, may I say that after 4 years of the Iraqi-Iranian war we do not see on the horizon an end to it. What is Your Excellency's concept of the way in which this war can end?

Mr President: As you know, war is a conflict between two wills, each running in its scheduled direction. War is sometimes based on logical analysis and conclusion or on matters that are being dealt with objectively as deemed necessary to attain or achieve the targets.

Therefore, there are two conflicting trends in this war. One trend calls for expansion at the expense of a neighboring state, and another trend defends its sovereignty, security, rights, and independence. The trend which defends itself is represented by Iraq. The other trend, which wants to expand at the expense of the neighbor, is represented by Iran. This is my concept of the state in which the war will end.

Journalist: Can Your Excellency define the conditions under which the balance can be changed in a manner that will make it possible to settle this conflict peacefully? In other words, it seems that Iran wishes to continue the war as this has achieved certain aims for the Iranian regime. How can this regime be convinced of accepting the principle of negotiations which was accepted by Iraq?

Mr President: First of all, we have to specify the Iranian aims in order to perceive the factors which are negatively or positively linked with these aims; namely, to perceive the factors which might be in the interest of Iran or the factors which work against its interests in terms of its aims. These aims should then be put into the perspective of the age in which we are living.

As we have said in our reply to the first question, Iran wants to expand and this matter has gone through stages. In the stage before 22 September 1980, they were the attackers. This means that from 4 September and until 22 September 1980 they attacked the border towns and territory, closed Shatt al-'Arab, and sank a number of ships in it. The large-scale reply came on 22 September when a counteroffensive was launched, during which the Iranian concentrations were crushed and the Iranian Army was chased deep inside Iranian territory. During the period which preceded 22 September, the Iranians were talking about expanding the Islamic revolution at the expense of Iraq.

It is the stage during which the Iranian regime launched its attacks on Iraq between 4 September and 22 September 1980, the day on which the counteroffensive began, as I said earlier. After 22 September, the official [Iranian] announcements began to defend Iran, and at the same time, offered hope to the Iranian fighters that once they defend Iran they will continue to proceed toward achieving their objectives of overthrowing the regime in Iraq.

The next stage began in July 1982 when we decided ealier in June of that year to return to the international border. In July, they began the first attack on Iraq across the borders. The slogan which they publicly announced was to enter Iraq in order to overthrow its regime and establish another regime on the Islamic way, as they say, and that means the Islamic way according to the concept of Khomeyni and his aides. However, every time they attacked and reaped failure, they corrected the words they said 2 or 3 days before and claimed that they only wanted to keep the Iraqi Army from the borders in order to protect the Iranian cities and villages from the Iraqi artillery shelling. Every time they wanted to gain new volunteers they used to return to the talk of reaching targets deep inside Iraq, assuring the volunteers that this can be achieved and is not only probable. They then launched one attack after another and failed every time. They used to justify their failure and reconsider what they had said by claiming that they were defending themselves and driving the danger away. They used to add that their attacks aimed at achieving the Iranian objectives of, mainly, obtaining war reparations, reconsidering the status of the Iraqi rulers, and achieving the other Iranian conditions, which are quite known to you.

So those were the Iranian objectives, particularly the objectives of defense. This issue is no longer accepted in Iran because it has become understood that Iraq has withdrawn to the border lines. As for the issue of launching an attack in order to overthrow the Iraqi regime, the majority of the Iranians realize that such a thing has become impossible regardless of whether they believe in it or not. In our assessment, what remains is a partial issue, namely, the issue of the illiterate citizens, who were mobilized by stirring up their instincts under a religious cover. However, the number of these citizens is continuously decreasing. The enthusiasm of these citizens deteriorates after every failed attack.

Then, would the Iranians be able to announce the reality of the objectives mentioned in your question; namely, that they are pushing all these numbers of Iranians into fighting because Iran's internal situation requires such a military action? The answer is that they cannot announce this to the Iranian peoples. They are forced to talk about objectives other than the real ones, and because of this the war continues. They cannot do that because the Iranians realize that these objectives logically and scientifically cannot be achieved. Furthermore, these objectives will appear illegitimate to a large part of the Iranians, as is the case now.

Journalist: What are Your Excellency's conditions to end the war?

Mr President: We do not have conditions but principles. Our principles are that each country must respect the other country's independence, its sovereignty over its own waters and territory, to respect and to avoid interference in each country's internal affairs, to be generally positive regarding the region's security, and not to disturb the region's security including that of the Arab Gulf. These principles are derived from the international laws, the spirit of the time, and the legitimate rights of any country. In our assessment, these principles have the respect and the support of everyone. Evidence of this is the resolution adopted recently by the UN Security Council.

Journalist: Your Excellency has frequently raised these principles. Is there a new principle Saddam Husayn likes to raise today?

Mr President: We do not have any new principles because the aforementioned principles are logical, legitimate, and practical.

Journalist: Mr President [words indistinct] if it is possible to give the Arab people a clear vision of the current military situation on the battlefronts. It is true that Your Excellency has dealt with this point while answering the second question, but for the sake of inquiry, what is the significance of the positions that the Iranians are now controlling inside Iraqi territory? What is your explanation of Iran opening a new front in northern Iraq, namely, the Panjwin front?

Mr President: The truth is that the fighting, which started in July 1982 when Iran attempted to cross over the international borders toward Iraq, is still raging on the borders. From a logistical point of view, we can count the times in which the Iranian Army entered Iraqi territory since that date. As from an operational and strategic point of view, Iran has been unable, so far, to achieve anything that may cause an unbalance in power. It will never be able to achieve that. This is the decisive point. It is true that Iran has entered this or that piece of land, which from a constitutional and legal point of view is an Iraqi land. These pieces of land are no more than small strips on the borders. You know the side which has been adopting an almost completely static defensive stand. You know that this side has been doing so for more than 1 and ½ years and, accordingly, it has been defending its land while standing on its own land. A successful defense comes through attacking the enemy. However, in accordance with our respect for world public opinion, in order to deprive Iran of excuses, and to expose Iran's reality we accepted the idea of defending our land while standing on our land. This is one of the most difficult ways of defending a vital target. This is well known to both the military and the non-miltiary.

Thus, when we defend our land on our land and accept the concept of static defense for 1 and ½ years along a front 1180 km long, while Iran maneuvers all of its forces and chooses the time, movement, battlefield, and the type of equipment that it masses in a certain place, then naturally it is able to penetrate 1, 2, or 3 kilometers in certain areas. However, according to our military estimates, if we wanted to push the Iranian Army to new positions deep inside Iranian territory then we can do this in any sector we may choose. However, according to our plan, we want to keep Iran exposed before public opinion. We do not want public opinion to be confused with the idea of the presence of the Iraqi Army inside Iranian territory and the idea of an aggressive Iran so that it becomes difficult to determine whether Iran is an aggressor or not.

Thus, on this basis we accepted this concept of defense. But, we are capable. In order to recall our capability we mention in this regard the recent battles in Zurbatiyah, which is a small town, even a village, on the border. We also remind world public opinion and Iranian public opinion that if we have ambitions on their land then we are able to do this [sentence as published]. We penetrated deep [inside Iran] and reached Mehran and beyond easily, within hours and not days. This military situation was reported by all the world press. We can repeat this and reach any depth if we want to, and we will do this when we find that the military situation demands this and when we realize that Iranian public opinion is convinced that Iran is an aggressor and does not respond to simple logic. We will do this when we think that penetrating deep inside any part of the Iranian territory is important in the military calculations.

Journalist: If I may comment, and I believe that this is a very clever point, even in Iraqi foreign policy and not merely in the military plan, I only say that even those who disagreed with you at the start of the war...

Mr President interrupts: Or those who did not understand it.

Journalist:...have become completely convinced now, thanks to the logical argument which you have kindly explained, of the just Iraqi cause, whether on the international political arena or world public opinion, including the Arab and Eastern ones. Allow me to move to another point. The French Super Etendard planes, which have been talked about a great deal in the world, to what extent can these planes alter the balance between the Iraqi and Iranian forces? Can this force Iran to negotiate?

Mr President: You know, and all those concerned know, that weapons alone cannot fight. Thus any type of weapon, whether it comes from France or anywhere else, is considered within the overall Iraqi capability and falls within the context of what is required militarily in terms of complete coordination between the various Army corps.

Thus, the arrival of the French Super Etendard planes in Iraq is actually a situation that, in itself, is unable to transform a state of weakness into one of strength. If Iraq is unable to fight and does not have the capability to stand fast, then neither the Super Etendard nor any other type of weapon can do anything. However, since the Iraqi capability is good; expertise is available; resolve, which is more important than experience, is plentiful; since experience enables the correct use of advanced weapons; and since the plane is advanced, then it can be seriously deployed against Iranian installations, particularly the oil installations in the Gulf region. However, we have not, until now, used these planes despite all that has been reported on its use in recent strikes against the Iranian Navy and merchant vessels. These strikes were carried out by the ordinary Iraqi Air Force. The Super Etendards have not been used yet.

Journalist: How does Your Excellency regard the Iranian threats of closing the Strait of Hormuz? Are they real threats? In such a case, can the Gulf states defend it from being blown up? Or, will this require asking foreign forces to intervene? What is Iraq's position in both cases?

Mr President: Do you mean is this a real threat or not? Or is it possible to implement it or not? As far as intentions are concerned, had Iran been able to close the Strait of Hormuz it would have done this now or even before now. This is because as you know, the Iranian rulers disregard all international charters, world public opinion, and international law. However, according to our analysis, we believe that Iran will hesitate a great deal before embarking on such a move. Politicians in Iran behave on the basis of tangible results, in accordance with their narrow-minded view of their interests, and not on any other basis. Thus, when they realize that they will lose as a result of embarking on such a move, they will not do it.

It seems to us now that many Iranian officials realize that Iran will be harmed more than anyone else by such a move. This is because if Iran did this, it will lock itself up. Iran's principal trade passes through this strait, and by closing it Iran will resemble a person who locks himself up in a cabinet and takes the key with him. Perhaps no one will be able to open the cabinet after that. The principal factor that has enabled Iran to continue the war until now is the fact that it exports oil. If Iran closes the Strait of Hormuz, through which it exports its oil, then how will it survive?

Journalist: Your Excellency all but rules this out?

Mr President: I rule it out from the practical point of view, though I do not rule it out from the point of view of its conformity with the whims of Iranian rulers.

Journalist: What if they do this?

Mr President: I think that if they do this, the Strait of Hormuz will not remain closed for long. Should they do this, despite the clarity of the picture we have painted, Khomeyni may then search for an occasion to pretend that it is he who stopped the war because the whole world has turned against him. [sentence as received] He might close the Strait of Hormuz under such circumstances, as much of his thinking reflects his own sickness. He could well imagine the talk surrounding a month-long closure of the Strait of Hormuz and its description as a heroic deed or bold decision undertaken by Khomeyni.

However, in our opinion, the Strait cannot be closed for a long because it is an area of vital interest to the world. These are legitimate human interests. States outside the region would then intervene. Although we would not approve of this intervention, we would understand it.

Journalist: What is the position of the big powers, specifically the United States and the Soviet Union, toward the Iraq-Iran war?

Mr President: You are aware that when those two states formulate their positions toward a certain part of the world or a given issue in any part of the world, they do so against the backdrop of the entire world. What is most important in each side's view of this subject — or the most important principles contained in their decision on it — must be based on two basic issues: the other side's global strategy, and their own national interests. At times, the positions adopted by the big powers are not at all clear — that is, they are subject to some sort of fluctuation between supporting or not supporting a certain stand. This happens particularly in the Middle East. It has often happened to both the United States and the Soviet Union; this is due either to insufficient awareness of the factors affecting the situation under discussion, or to other considerations. Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the two superpowers were in agreement during the first phase of the conflict — tacitly, if not openly — to let the war continue.

According to this view, the United States sought to prevent the sparks of this war from spreading to surrounding areas by means of a series of plans, including political ones, which dealt with marketing oil, fixing oil prices, and other matters. It is certain that the Soviet Union used to believe that a continuation of the war would prompt Iran to move closer to it. The United States may have imagined — in accord with this stance — that Iraq, under the pressure of war, would move closer toward it at the expense of its national and pan-Arab interests. I believe that during the past 2 years, the two superpowers have become more understanding of Iraq and Iran through some logic and wisdom. By wisdom I mean understanding, and not sheer wisdom.

The two states' approval of the recent UN Security Council resolution gives us this impression, as do several other indicators. We can say that these two states have not stopped flirting with the Iranian regime and that arms from both these nations continue to reach Iran in one way or another.

We are now satisfied with the Soviet Union's return to a framework of friendly relations with us. We are also satisfied with the fact that the United States has begun to show a greater understanding of the meaning of the conflict and the dangers posed by the irresponsible Iranian behavior in the region.

Journalist: Does Your Excellency believe that Khomeyni's death will mean the end of war?

Mr President: In our view, we cannot say that the end of Khomeyni will lead to a speedy end to the war, nor will his presence lead to such an end, both because Khomeyni is not fighting alone and also because the nature of the Iranian regime and the mentality of its officials are based on the premise of expansion at the expense of Iraq and other countries. This is clearly indicated by Khomeyni's interference in the internal affairs of several Islamic states. Such a mentality can find itself a leader after Khomeyni dies. One must also take into account that a power struggle in Iran could lead others to extremism.

Khomeyni is a politician working under the guise of religion; he is not merely a backward man of religion. This is reflected in the release of the U.S. hostages, who were detained on Khomeyni's personal orders. When one recalls that he used to describe the United States as the Great Satan, it is obvious that, were he not a politician, he would have continued holding the hostages. However, when he began to lose, he released them as a first step in freeing up his deposits in U.S. banks.

Is this not sufficient to prove that he is a politician? Therefore, we do not rule out the possibility that Khomeyni will promote an end to the war when he realizes that he gains nothing by its continuation. Accordingly, we can say that the disappearance of Khomeyni does not necessarily mean the end of war. His disappearance will create a new situation which could have a positive influence on the issue of ending the war. On the other hand, Khomeyni's continued presence does not necessarily mean the continuation of the war.

Journalist: What is Your Excellency's assessment of Egypt's military support for Iraq, and how do you view the development of economic relations between the two countries?

Mr President: Not a single source of arms can meet the war requirements because the weapons that are used in the battlefield are various and numerous. Our brothers in Egypt are providing us with good quantities of arms and ammunition, especially ammunition. We also purchase arms and ammunition from a large number of world countries. We do not look at Egypt's supplying us with arms in a material sense, but within the Arab spirit which is embodied in such a stand.

This stand could be seen by some traditionalists as not being strange, but we feel that the Egyptian decision to supply us with arms has a deep meaning and we will always proudly remember it. Our relations with Egypt are not restricted to military purchases but are emanating from the spirit of the new relationship between us and President Husni Mubarak and also between us and all our brother officials in Egypt.

Thus, the military purchases are placed within this framework, and for this reason they have the meaning of brotherly cooperation with Iraq. Cooperation with Egypt in any economic field or other fields is possible. We are currently holding consultations on important political matters. As for the economic aspect in these consultations, it is in fact what comes next after the political aspect. Thus, it is natural to cooperate in the economic field in order to strengthen and develop the brotherly ties between the two countries in various fields.

Journalist: With regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict, many people have linked the outbreak of the Iraqi-Iranian war to a strategic imbalance between the Arabs and Israel. To what extent does Your Excellency agree with this link?

Mr President: I prefer to have this question phrased more precisely. Do you mean that Iraq's absence due to the war has negatively affected the balance of power between the Arabs and Israel in favor of the latter?

Journalist: Yes, this is the question.

Mr President: It is obvious that when any Arab party quits the arena of confrontation and pressure on the Israeli policy it thus records a point in Israel's favor. When Iraq is obliged to fight Iran in defense of its national sovereignty and its brothers in the Gulf, either directly or indirectly, Israel will certainly be the beneficiary. Even more than that, we believe that through its private and Zionist organs, Israel has worked for the outbreak and the continuation of the war. Our conviction to this effect is constant. Comparing the Arab force in general—I do not mean here the military force, but the pressuring force on the Israeli policy excluding Iraq—and the stand of the Syrian and Libyan rulers shows that the Syrian and Libyan rulers are not truthful in their claims that they are concerned about the Arab nation's interests in confronting Zionist ambitions. In other words, if they were concerned about strengthening the Arab force which faces Israeli ambitions they would not have stood on Iran's side against Iraq or helped in the continuation of the war until this day. The relationship is present, as you have said, but it is not the only factor which caused the war to erupt and continue. There are numerous factors for this, but this is an essential factor.

Journalist: How does Your Excellency assess the present Arab situation? Do you believe there is an opportunity for patching up differences and strengthening solidarity between the Arab countries, as well as reaching a minimum agreement to confront the dangers which are surrounding the Arab nation?

Mr President: We always believe that the Arab regimes can reach a minimum agreement at any time that can be developed in the future, even if these regimes have different policies in other fields. This is what we think and believe. Will this minimum agreement be reached today? This is what we seek to achieve. As you can see, keeping Arab action dependent on the Syrian and Libyan rejection of pan-Arab rapprochement and collective and serious discussions of the Arab nation's fate is a dangerous process that must not remain. It is sufficient for the Arabs when they meet with the absence of one, two, or three states because by the agreement among those meeting they can decide what they believe to be correct and commit themselves toward it. For instance, one of the factors that hampers the convocation of the Arab summit is that Syria and Libya do not want it to convene. Is it possible that this summit fails to convene because Syria and Libya do not want its convocation? We say no. As Arabs, we may try to create a suitable atmosphere for all the Arabs to attend any of the Arab conferences, and we have to endeavor to have all the Arabs approve all the resolutions that are being taken, as you have said. However, because this thing is not always achieved, we prefer to have Arab resolutions adopted by unanimity and considered on this basis by those who believe in them. In our opinion, Arab League charters must be amended to this effect.

Journalist: It is obvious that Your Excellency rejects seeing the minority dominating the Arab majority.

Mr President: Yes. I do not think that the Arab League's resolutions and even its charter are intended to prevent the majority of the Arabs from meeting in order to adopt resolutions binding to this majority if the minority refuses to attend. If all the Arabs manage to meet, then we call for adopting unanimous resolutions. In the case of some Arabs objecting to all the Arab formulas, the adoption of the Arab resolution should not be hampered by these types of Arabs. The resolutions in this case should be binding.

Journalist: What is Your Excellency's opinion on what is happening in Lebanon and on a way to settle the Lebanese crisis? What is your stand on the Syrian moves in Lebanon and what is their impact on the Palestinian cause?

Mr President: Regarding this issue, we are giving more concern to the consequences of the Syrian and others' interference in Lebanon. Libya is also interfering in the affairs of Lebanon and Palestine. We look at the consequences of this interference not from their momentous impact, but from what will happen to the Arabs in the coming stages. We also consider the moral degeneration on the level of the Arab states more than we consider the material and direct impact of this issue. Moves resembling the Syrian and Libyan moves have never happened even in the worse stages of the Arab history we read about. if this state continues to govern the inter-Arab dealings, even if the Arabs morally reject it, it will constitute a very serious matter.

He who interferes in the PLO's affairs and imposes on it leaders that suit the viewpoint of a certain state or states, and he who interferes in the affairs of a neighboring Arab country to impose on it a political condition that suits him is capable of interfering in the affairs of other non-neighboring sides unless there are serious Arab reactions. So far, there are no such serious Arab reactions toward all these subjects. It is quite natural that we reject this state, which we consider untypical of Arab morals and harmful to the Arab interests. If there is a tradition that an Arab must fight his fellow Arab, change his regimes, and change his rulers, similar to what is happening now or to what is meant to happen regarding Syria, assisted by Libya, then such a tradition will tear the entire Arab homeland.

Journalist: What Syria and Libya are doing will certainly help in liquidating the Palestinian cause.

Mr President: Exactly. Consider the international community recently. How do you expect this community to be mobilized politically in favor of the Palestinians at a time when the Arabs are killing the Palestinians simply because the Palestinians want to use the Palestine card within the framework of regional political calculations? Should such deeds be fulfilled? It will be quite natural that they result in the liquidation of the Palestinian cause.

Journalist: Iraq does support the [PLO's] legitimate leadership?

Mr President: Yes, we enthusiastically, and without any restrictions, support the legitimate leadership.

Journalist: There is a talk about the need to resume the dialogue between King Husayn and the PLO, or what is left of it, to find the best methods to restore the West Bank and Gaza Strip and define the future relations between Jordan and the Palestinians. What is Your Excellency's opinion on this matter?

Mr President: When the rapprochement and dialogue took place between the Jordanians and Palestinians, we considered this as natural and necessary because, geographically speaking, Jordan lies on the confrontation line with Israel. Since the West Bank was a part of Jordan and since the Palestinians are struggling for their rights, it is natural that they coordinate with all the Arab states located in the confrontation line, giving a distinguished position to Jordan because of the well known distinguished relations between the Palestinians and the Jordanians. We support anything positive that may take place between the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

Journalist: Let us be a little more frank. Would you oppose a Jordanian and Palestinian agreement on the principle of negotiations?

Mr President: I do not want to make any speculations and talk about something that has not yet been achieved. As a general rule, we say that we do not oppose anything the Palestinians would accept for the sake of their cause. We do not oppose anything that the Palestinians would agree on under normal circumstances, whether in a direct Palestinian framework or in a Palestinian-Arab framework with any Arab country. This was our stand at the Fes summit conference.

Journalist: Undoubtedly the war with Iran has cost Iraq a great deal and has created economic difficulties. How does Iraq face these costs now, and how does Iraqi development continue under these circumstances?

Mr President: It must be realized that when Iraq entered the war it had a massive reserve of resources and funds. It must also be realized that Iraq does not have only a one-sided economy —such that if the oil economy collapses the entire Iraqi economy also collapses, although oil does represent a principal factor in the Iraqi economy. You know that one gives more under decisive confrontational circumstances, particularly when the issue concerns self-defense and sovereignty, freedom, and independence. This is the case with the Iraqis now. They are exerting efforts in the field of construction on an equal basis with the fighting spirit in the front line trenches in defense of Iraq. Those who are exerting efforts in the field of construction, away from the direct contact lines with the enemy, do this out of patriotism, as we have explained. They feel that those who are confronting the enemy are better than they are because they regard that confrontation as being carried out with weapons; they have to assert their patriotism by being equal to their brothers who are confronting the enemy with their bodies in defense of Iraq.

This is the prevalent spirit now in building the new Iraq. Therefore, the job that used to take 6 hours to complete can now be completed in 3 hours or less. Thus, time has been greately reduced toward greater and more accurate work. The Iraqi economic institutions are operating in a good manner and much better than before the war, and this is a new element. The other element is that we have to praise the assistance that was extended by Arab brothers in this field, particularly from the brothers in the Arab Gulf countries, foremost being Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This assistance was, and continues to be, the principal means of economic confrontation regarding the difficulties. Every country must expect economic difficulties when it is at war. However, if we compare Iraq with all the usual standards, our strength will seem strange in comparison with similar cases. You know this, you entered wars and know the conditions of war. Thank God things are running well in the field of construction and in providing the essential commodities for the Armed Forces and citizens.

Journalist: It is known that Iran tries from time to time to incite Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq. How do you deal with these attempts, and what is the Kurds' position on the Iraqi-Iranian war?

Mr President: Of course, Iran attempts to do this. However, we must say that all Iran's attempts and the attempts of Libya and Syria, which support Iran in aggravating the Kurdish issue in the north, are much less than we had anticipated. This means that the hostile forces failed to meddle with the Kurdish card as we had expected and that these attempts are much less than our preparations to confront such meddling.

The Kurdish people of Iraq, in general —as we have observed them during our visits to north, particularly when we recently visited the front and the citizens in the rear lines, as well our observations of the citizens who visited us in Baghdad —have the same enthusiasm and loyalty as the other Iraqis. As to whether there are bad elements that were used by Iran, the answer is yes. This is one of the factors that made Iran resort to the Panjwin and Haj 'Umran axes. It was their belief that through the presence of Iraqi Kurds in the Panjwin and Haj 'Umran axes, it could obtain the cooperation of the citizens to facilitate its occupation of part of Iraq. Iran faced exactly the opposite situation. The Iraqis are all alike even if there are special circumstances in the north. However, in general, they are all alike in confronting the enemy.

Journalist: There are a number of Arab countries that stood on the side of Iraq during the war, and there are other Arab countries that stood alongside Iran. Did you expect this before the outbreak of the war, and how do you view the Arab assistance that you are receiving?

Mr President: In this respect I must say that the Arabs' solidarity with Iraq in confronting the war is much less than what should have been given by all the Arabs, even by those who adopted very positive stands toward Iraq. This is a general assessment. However, when we compare the Arabs' positive and negative stands, we find the same general assessment we made before the outbreak of the war. This means that the elements that we expected to adopt an evil stand continue to adopt very evil stands, even if we assume that there was a case of misunderstanding. However, it seems that their circumstances do not allow them to achieve a more evil stand. We assumed the possibility that the Syrian regime might enter Iraqi territory militarily. We accounted for this; we had no choice because we have to defend our country. We said that if the Syrian regime's forces entered from the west, let them. We know what to do. However, this did not take place, although Hafiz al-Asad attempted to mass some military divisions on our borders. However, when he realized that we did not pay any attention to him. [sentence as published]

We said that anyone who enters the heart of Iraq will receive the punishment he deserves. However, this did not happen, not out of honesty or honor, but because he could not do it. Regarding our Arab brothers, some of them acted positively and beyond our expectations. Others acted within our expectations. Those who acted positively are still required to promote their action. Iraq has expressed this concept and the level of action in which it believes — as you know — in all the wars the Arabs waged against the foreigner. Iraq has actively participated in defending the Arab territories whenever battles raged between the Arabs and foreigners. Here I specifically mean all the battles of Palestine in 1948, 1967, and 1973. We hope that the Arabs will promote their stand to the level of the Iraqi behavior. The level we are now dealing with is either within our expectations or better than our expectations because we always base our calculations on the worst possibilities. Our calculations have so far not gone below the worst probabilities on the Arab and international levels. On the contrary, there are indications that the situation is better than we have expected or calculated.

Journalist: What was the aim of King Husayn's recent visit to Iraq?

Mr President: You know that we exchange visits, or at least, King Husayn visits Iraq from time to time. This took place before and during the war. Iraqi officials also visit Jordan. I visited Jordan before the war. After the war I could not visit Jordan except at the time of the summit conference. In general, the Arab situation calls for such meetings. Talks dealt mainly with the general Arab situation and the Lebanese events.

Journalist: Is there a Jordanian fear of any Syrian move — even if this is not for publication?

Mr President: I have previously said that this is a serious precedence. If the Syrians were left to do as they please, they would do it. What they want and do is against the Arab nation's interest and at the expense of the Arab countries' unity.

Journalist: Does Your Excellency believe that Syria might interfere in Jordan militarily?

Mr Presidnet: In our evaluation, there is nothing to prevent Syria from perpetrating such an action once it feels it will obtain results similar to those it planned for in Lebanon.

Journalist: Mr President, I could not have hoped for more of your time.

Mr President: You are welcome. Egypt is dear to us, and so are its officials and people. You are welcome as an Arab in your country. Convey my greetings to Egypt — land, history, people, and officials.

Journalist: God willing, we shall soon see you in your second country.

Mr President: God willing. The fact that there is no diplomatic representation on the ambassadorial level does not prevent me from visiting Egypt. If my circumstances allow me to visit Egypt, I will do so despite the present situation.

Journalist: Mr President, can I publish your words in this regard?

Mr President: I do not consider the absence of diplomatic representation on the ambassadorial level a reason which prevents officials from exchanging visits. If my circumstances were favorable, I would visit Egypt. Whenever the circumstances of Brother Husni Mubarak are favorable for him to visit Iraq, we will receive him as a president and Arab citizen to the best of our ability in his country, Iraq. I say what I believe. Despite the fact that the two countries have no official ambassadors, I will visit Egypt whenever my circumstances allow me to do so and without formalities. I will then tell my brother Husni Mubarak: I will come to see you after 2 or 3 days if you are not busy. We will give Brother President Husni Mubarak the reception he and Egypt deserve whenever he is able to visit Iraq.

Journalist: This statement will certainly have a magic touch on both Iraq and Egypt.

Mr President: This is our line in which we believe. Several attempts were made to make Iraq behave toward the people of Egypt in an imbalanced manner and outside the framework of politics and its requirements. We stood firmly against these attempts. We said at the meeting held in Tripoli, Libya, that we cannot boycott Egypt because we deal in politics according to what we believe is correct. We also believe that the Baghdad summit resolutions do not boycott Egypt, but had put pressure on its ruler at that time.

(ENDALL) 020910 LF/SEMIVAN/LD 02/2120Z DEC

SPA: Prince Nayif in Baghdad for Ministers' Parley

LD042308 Riyadh SPA in English 1934 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 4 SPA — Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif arrived here tonight from Riyadh to attend the second session of the Arab interior ministers conference due to start in the Iraqi capital tomorrow. He was greeted by Iraqi interior minister Sa'dun Shakir and the Kingdom's Ambassador to Iraq Tirad al-Harithi.

INA: Brother Ready To Assume Hafiz al-Asad's Role

JN041602 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, 4 Dec (INA) — Diplomatic sources today said that Rif'at al-Asad, brother of the Syrian regime's president, recently had more than 1 million pictures of himself printed in preparation for taking over his brother's position. Press reports have revealed that a group of people, including Rif'at al-Asad, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Hikmat ash-Shihabi, and Mustafa Talas, is currently running the Syrian regime's affairs in the absence of Hafiz al-Asad. Reports indicate that the president is unable to face up to his responsibilities as result of a serious illness, the cause of which the Syrian authorities have been concealing for 3 weeks.

These diplomatic sources say that Rif'at al-Asad is determined to impose himself on the others who are aspiring to Hafiz al-Asad's position. They add that he has made all the necessary preparations to assume his brother's position.

Husayn Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Pact in Interview

JN030749 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has expressed Jordan's displeasure regarding the strategic cooperation agreements that were announced following Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington this week. He expressed Jordan's concern over these agreements, which will increase Israeli intransigence toward peace in the Middle East.

In an interview with the *NEW YORK TIMES* published today, [as heard] His Majesty King Husayn said: We view these agreements as some sort of reward for Israel for rejecting President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative, for continuing its expansionist settlement policy in the occupied territories, and for the continued presence of its invading forces in southern Lebanon.

His Majesty indicated that President Reagan's administration was not sufficiently firm with Israel during talks this week in Washington, particularly regarding the issue of settlements. He said: It seems that the Americans did not exercise pressure at all on this issue. Something must be done, because at every moment a new fait accompli occurs in the occupied territories. His Majesty King Husayn expressed Jordan's concern over the Israeli plan that was announced 2 weeks ago to rehouse the Palestinian refugees in territories under Israel control in new places outside these refugee camps. His majesty explained that the aim of this Israeli plan is to transfer the Palestinian refugees to the Jordan Valley as a first step toward placing them outside their land and homeland.

His Majesty King Husayn declared that if the United States wants to regain its credibility in the Arab world, then it must exercise its influence to convince Israel to halt its settlement activity and withdraw from Lebanon. His Majesty King Hsuayn called on the United States to implement a clear policy such as the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, whether they are Israeli or other forces.

His majesty pointed out that he had received a letter from President Reagan that includes proposals on the cause of peace in the Middle East. He said the letter has not eased the dangerous situation that resulted from the recent Israeli-U.S. agreements.

On the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, His Majesty said that Jordan is ready to resume negotiations with the PLO. He said that Yasir 'Arafat is the legitimate leader of the Palestinian people and that Jordan welcomes him in Amman if he decides to leave Tripoli. He said the negotiations with the PLO may be resumed at any time and without any preconditions.

His majesty reaffirmed that the strengthening of Israeli-U.S. political and military relations will harm the trust the Arab world has placed in the United States. He said if the United States wants to be an effective mediator in the peace process, it should endeavor to effect the Israelis' withdrawal from Lebanon and to give new affirmations of its commitment to effect Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in exchange for establishing peace with the Arabs.

Amman Cites Interview Criticism

JN031814 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Dec 83

["Today's Talk"]

[Text] In a statement to the newspaper the *NEW YORK TIMES* published yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn said that strengthening political and military relations between the United States and Israel will have a negative effect on the Arab world's trust in the United States. The king said that the agreements of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel have clearly revealed Washington's position toward several important and vital issues. We believed that the United States would not show indulgence toward these issues, especially since it had approved several international resolutions concerning these issues such as Resolution No 242, which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab land occupied in 1967, and Resolutions No 508 and 509 concerning the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The United States had also rejected Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories and the annexation of Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian heights.

The new agreements limit the effectiveness of U.S. mediation regarding the achievement of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and the offering of new assertions concerning Washington's commitment to realize an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza in return for peace with the Arabs. If the United States wants to restore its credibility in the Arab world, it should take positive, just decisions to stop Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, realize an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and bring about peace in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the international organizations.

We are confident that the agreements of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel will lead to more Israeli intransigence regarding peace in the Middle East. In light of this, we believe that these agreements came as a clear reward for the Zionist aggression and Israel's rejection of all the peace initiatives in the region. By these agreements, the United States has moved the Middle East issue into a new stalemate whose dangers and disasters are difficult to predict, especially toward the Arab and the Arab Asian region. Nobody doubts that the U,.S. Administration understands these dangers. Why did the United States behave in a way that made it lose its credibility in the Arab world? Why does the United States ignore the capability and potentials of a nation, which occupies a geographic area from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf, to satisfy Israel? The strategic agreement is not justified at all if the United States really wants stability in the region through establishing a just and aspired peace.

Turkish President Arrives on 3-Day Official Visit

Makes Statement

JN031318 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Turkish President Kenan Evren arrived in Amman this afternoon on an official 3-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn. His Majesty King Husayn led those who received the great guest. He was also received by His Highness Prince Muhammad; the prime minister; the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; the court minister, who is chief of the escort mission that will accompany the Turkish president; the chief chamberlain; and the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Official talks between King Husayn and President Evren will begin in Amman today. The talks will deal with issues of joint interest, particularly the Middle East situation and the means of promoting the existing relations of cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of economy and trade exchange.

The Turkish president is accompanied by an official delegation comprised of Ilter Turkmen, minister of foreign affairs; Sermit Pasin, minister of state; the deputy foreign minister; the Foreign Ministry spokesman; the director of economic affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and a number of senior Turkish officials.

In a statement to reporters, President Evren said: I am very glad to be visiting friendly and fraternal Jordan in response to the kind invitation of His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal. I would like to convey the Turkish people's sincerest greetings to the Jordanian people. He said: This visit will give me the opportunity to exchange views with my brother the king, with whom I share similar views on many issues. We will deal with the issue of expanding our bilateral relations and our current cooperation, which are currently on a very good level.

The Turkish president also said: On this occasion, I would like to stress how grateful I am to be witnessing the development of the historical, religious, and cultural ties between our two peoples. This visit will be a good opportunity for me to hear his majesty's personal assessment, which is based on long experience and profound knowledge. He said: As I step on Jordanian soil, I would like to offer my sincerest wishes to my brother his majesty the king and to the friendly Jordanian people.

Report on 3 Dec Talks

JN032007 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Turkish side, led by President Kenan Evren, held a 3-hour round of official talks at the Royal Hashemite Court at 1530 today. The two sides analyzed the current international situation, and the new developments in the Middle East region in light of the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Arab territories, and in light of the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and its dangers to the region's countries.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that the only way to realize security, stability, and peace in the Middle East is through finding a comprehensive settlement to the Palestine question on the basis of justice and right represented by the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the occupied Arab territories and enabling the Palestinian people to practice their legitimate right to determine their destiny and future on their national soil. His Majesty King Husayn also asserted Jordan's connection and close ties with the Palestine question on historical, national, and fateful levels, and its determination to work for rescuing the land and liberating the kinfolk. His majesty also reviewed the grave situation and the great dangers that are created in Lebanon by the Israeli occupation, a fact that threatens the region. He also stressed the need for Israel to withdraw from all Lebanese territories, for the withdrawal of the other foreign troops, the importance of assisting the Lebanese legitimacy in spreading its sovereignty, and the maintenance of the unity of Lebanon — land, people, and entity.

His Majesty King Husayn also explained the real political and military situation in the Iraqi-Iranian war, affirming the importance of ending this on the bases of good neighborliness and each country's respect for the other country's independence and supremacy over its land and water, and the noninterference in each country's internal affairs. His majesty explained Iraq's response to these bases.

The two sides also reviewed the existing, close, bilateral relations, and stressed their concern about developing them in all fields of joint cooperation to realize the higher interests of the two peoples.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Prince Muhammad, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the Court minister, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the foreign minister, the minister of industry and trade, the president of the National Council of Planning, and the Jordanian ambassador in Ankara.

On the Turkish side, the talks were attended by the foreign minister, the minister of state, the Turkish ambassador in Amman, the deputy Foreign Ministry under secretary, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, a number of advisers, and the members of the accompanying delegation.

Husayn, Evren 3 Dec Speeches

JN041040 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Dec 83 p 19

[Text of speeches exchanged by King Husayn and President Kenan Evren at the evening banquet held in honor of the Turkish president on 3 December 1983 in Amman]

[Text] Amman, (PETRA) — The following is text of the speech which His Majesty King Hsuayn delivered at the evening banquet which he held yesterday in honor of the Turkish president:

Your Excellency dear brother Kenan Evren, president of the Republic of Turkey. I am pleased to warmly welcome my dear brother the president and the members of the Turkish delegation in my name and in the name of the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I seize the precious opportunity afforded by your visit to Jordan to express the sincere cordiality and deep respect which we hold for Your Excellency and the esteem and affection which we harbor for the noble fraternal Turkish people.

Your Excellency, we have been united for many centuries by the most sublime and strongest bond; it is the bond of Islam, our tolerant and just religion. Strong and deep-rooted historical and cultural ties have been established between the two great nations; the Arab and Turkish nations. These ties will continue to guide our common march toward achieving our objectives and expanding the base of the mutual interests of our fraternal peoples. The fraternal relations between the Republic of Turkey and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have always been based on mutual respect and comprehensive cooperation. It is a historical continuation of the friendship between our two peoples whose foundations were laid by His Majesty the late King 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, God bless his soul, the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Your Excellency my dear brother, you know that our region has suffered a great deal from the injustice and aggression of the covetous, the disavowal of humanitarian principles, and the failure to fulfill international promises and pledges. Since the persecution and forcible exile of Ash-Sharif Husayn ibn 'Ali for demanding the rights of the Palestinians; and, since the call of his son, King Faysal I, at the Versailles Conference, demanding self-determination for the Palestinian people; since that time the Palestinians have been aspiring for exercising their right of self-determination and searching for justice, which stipulates the right of every people to live in peace on their national soil and on the lands of their fathers and forefathers. We in Jordan have remained loyal to our pledge. We have always stood for justice and against injustice to the extent that the founder of the Kindgom paid his life as a price for what he believed in. He fell martyr in Jerusalem. The wars which Jordan has fought for the sake of principle and duty has burdened it with more than its resources and capabilities can take.

Your Excellency, when we call for achieving justice, removing injustice, and enabling the Palestinian people to attain their legitimate rights, which Israel has always faced with oppressive rejection, we should also point out that Israel is justifying its acts of aggression against the whole of the Arab nation and is explaining its usurpation of all Palestinian territory and parts of the territories of Syria and Lebanon by saying it has done so to defend itself and its national security. It is as if self-defense can only be guaranteed by aggression on others. It is also as if national security can only be guaranteed by usurping other people's security, expelling people from their own lands, and disavowing the basic rights which are guaranteed by all heavenly laws and recognized by the whole world through international charters and agreements.

Your Excellency, we have always said that Israel must choose between peace and the land and that it cannot obtain both. We have tirelessly reiterated that peace and justice are indivisible. Peace means security for states, all states in the region. It also means justice for peoples, all peoples in the region. When peace is based on justice it acquires a strong and viable foundation and benefits all peoples without exception. We have always believed in the role which the international community can play by making initiatives and proposing ideas along these sublime principles which constitute the bases of our moves and policy. Thus we have accepted all international initiatives which are based on the complete understanding of these principles. On the other hand, Israel has stood as a barrier against these principles, thinking that force would determine justice and that the status quo which is imposed by war, killings, destruction, and the displacement of peoples would, in the long term, become an acceptable fact.

Your Excellency, the challenges facing our region are assuming different dimensions. We have to be alert to the resulting dangers and to find adequate solutions to prevent a conflagration which, if it takes place, God forbid, would spread its evils not only in this region, but the whole world, and a dear price would then have to be paid.

The crux of the conflict in the region is the Palestine question. Any delay in solving it constitutes a grave danger that would affect the future generations. We have seen the catastrophes and tribulations to which fraternal Lebanon has been exposed over the past 8 years, and how that small and peaceful Arab country has turned into a battlefield in which all the evils of world power struggle and regional conflicts have erupted. All this has paved the way for Israeli aggression on Lebanon and the occupation of a part of its territory, southern Lebanon, on the pretext of protecting Galilee. This is in addition to Israel's other claims that it acted on the principles of defending itself and its national security; just principles which were used to commit an injustice. We have also witnessed how Israel, along with other evil elements in our region, have tried to liquidate Palestinian legitimacy, obliterate Palestinian identity, and instigate Palestinians against one another so as to weaken them, undermine their willpower, and silence their voice so that they would not be able to demand their natural rights to their entity and homeland.

We have also witnessed this fierce grinding war which has been raging for more than 3 years between our sisters in Islam, Iraq and Iran; a war in which one group of the faithful committed an aggression against another. Iraq has maintained two interrelated stands; the stand of the honorable defender of his land and soil and the stand of the advocate of peace based on the principles of security and justice.

Your Excellency, the world today is oscillating between those who control politics and those who control wealth. There must be middle ground between these two groups. By their central geographical position between Europe, Asia, the Arab world, and Africa, Jordan and Turkey can work together to entrench this centrist concept by spreading it among all the peace-loving peoples in the world. Our common cultural roots and the heritage of our two great nations —the Turkish and Arab nations — should afford us a great and broad opportunity to work together for the wellbeing of both nations and the whole of mankind.

Your Excellency, my dear brother, allow me at the end of my speech to express my belief in the great and important role which your government and nation can play in entrenching the principles of right and justice and confronting the problems facing our region. Your wise leadership has enabled the fraternal Republic of Turkey to peacefully overcome a major crossroad in its political life. Moreover, your active participation in the European Community and the Islamic Conference Organization and your close ties with many world countries in the East and the West qualify your government for the role of entrenching the principle of dialogue among all nations and cultures; a dialogue which is based on a precise understanding of the real issues and stands and on the perseverance to tackle problems on the basis of the sublime humanitarian principles and the right of all peoples to stability and prosperity.

I am sure that the close fraternal ties between the Republic of Turkey and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will continue to strengthen with time and that we will continue together to consolidate these ties in all walks of life so that they will be a source of wellbeing and happiness for our two peoples. I, Your Excellency and dear brother, wish you a happy stay in Jordan among your people and brothers. I would like to express my sincerest wishes for your continued good health and happiness. I pray to the Almighty God to grant you success in guiding your great Turkish nation to the glory it deserves. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

The following is the text of the speech which the Turkish president delivered at the evening banquet hosted in his honor yesterday by His Majesty King Husayn:

Your Majesty, I am very pleased that my response to your kind invitation has given me the opportunity to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The common historical bonds, the mutual moral ties, and the feelings of esteem and fraternity which our peoples hold for each other have brought our two countries closer to one another. During your visit to Turkey last year, you personally felt the great effusive love which our people harbor for your majesty and the noble Jordanian people. The visit which your exalted grandfather King 'Abdallah paid to Turkey in 1937, and the talks which he held then with Ataturk, the builder of Turkey, marked the beginning of friendly relations which we are continuing up to this day. We know that you have visited our country several times since your accession to the Hashemite throne. We also know the importance and value you attach to Turkey. For our part, we see in your majesty a wise, mature, and courageous leader and a brilliant statesman.

My visit to Amman is taking place at a time when the Middle East is bogged down in very serious disturbances. We are facing new threats to peace and stability in our region, which is receiving new blows. Despite our common concern and desire to achieve the common objective, the countries of the region are now more divided than at any time before. The Middle East is today the area where world peace is going through its most difficult test. And, while the atmosphere of no confidence between East and West is leading to new tensions and encouraging the arms race, the Middle East seems to be on the eve of conflagrations which could turn it into an arena for world power struggle. In order to prevent this, we in Turkey are of course ready to do what we can. However, in view of the lack of unity and solidarity among the Arab states, we cannot but wait for the fruits of our efforts.

Your Majesty is a leader who has devoted his entire life to peace and stability in this region. The exchange of viewpoints with your majesty at this particular phase is of great importance to us. The catastrophe which befell our Palestinian brothers has caused us great sorrow. We have always supported and we will continue to support their just cause and their right to self- determination. In addition to the Arab divisions, the Palestinian divisions are also a regrettable development to all of us. Overlooking the rights of the Palestinian people is the source of the problem in the Middle East. The restoration of the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people is an essential condition for the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East. The fulfillment of this condition depends on the Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories which it occupied in 1967 and the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self determination.

However, developments are moving in the opposite direction. This is because Israel is entrenching its presence in and control over the territories under its occupation. It is trying to change the demography of these territories by building settlements and creating new faits accomplis. Israel was not satisfied with creating such faits accomplis in the West Bank and Gaza, but also placed southern Lebanon under its occupation. Despite the difficult circumstances, the new crises and divisions can only be terminated by resuming the peace process. We believe that the success of this process depends, above all, on the achievement of Arab unity and solidarity. If this condition is not met, it will be very difficult for the current initiatives to produce any results which will safeguard the rights and interests of the Arabs. At any rate, we believe that Your Majesty's experience and farsightedness will be most significant with regard to the next phase.

As for the Lebanese catastrophe, it has caused us deep sorrow. We support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country. It is necessary for the Israeli units and the other forces to withdraw from Lebanon without any further delay. Otherwise, Lebanon would not be able to permanently guarantee its national reconciliation and the solution of its complicated internal problems. Moreover, the rivalries, tensions, and clashes in Lebanon might develop into a crisis of wider dimensions.

The Iraqi-Iranian war which has been going on for 3 years and in which both sides have suffered immense losses in men and resources, is also one of the causes of pain in our region. The results of this war are escalating and threatening the region. To continue the war will not only harm the interests of the warring parties but also the interests of all states in the region for a long time. Turkey will follow a perfectly neutral policy toward these two neighboring countries with whom we've had cordial relations. We hope that this fratricide will end as soon as possible. For this purpose, we have been and always will remain ready to meet our obligations to this effect. The Islamic world suffers different problems. Unfortunately, the factors which necessitate cooperation among the Islamic states cannot overcome the obstacles which result from local differences. The principle of strength in unity is not being applied and the negative consequences of this situation will have to be faced by all.

In this context I would like to touch on the recent events which affected the Turkish people in Cyprus. The Turkish Community participated in the establishment of the Cypriot republic and fought to defend this entity. The Turkish community also exerted great efforts to enter into the federation from which it was expelled by the Greeks. When the Greek Cypriots refused to reach understanding with it and exploited the issue in international forums, the Turkish community decided to solve the problem by forming its own state in northern Cyprus. The Turkish community has the right to make its own decisions in this regard and this decision cannot be discussed in any form. [sentence as published] Our Turkish brothers in Cyprus have left the door open for a fair unity with the Greeks. Their aim is to reach a settlement by negotiations on equal footing. Turkey has always insisted that these negotiations on equal footing under the supervision of the UN secretary general are the best means for solving the Cypriot problem. The establishment of the northern Cypriot state has not affected our peaceful policy of establishing a federal state consisting of the two sectors of Cyprus. In light of the current circumstances, the resumption of the above negotiations between the parties concerned has assumed great importance. Here I would like to affirm our readiness to support all efforts in this field. Your Majesty, as I have already said, the Turkish-Jordanian relations are established on firm bases. The exchange of visits has granted us the opportunity to exchange views on the highest level. These exchanges constitute a source of inspiration for us. These visits help us strengthen our bilateral relations and assist us in discussing the various international issues. Our economic and trade relations are progressing. We are prepared to promote these relations further in the service of the two peoples. We earnestly hope to realize this. In the cultural field, the promotion and diversification of the current ties will help develop the mutual feelings among our two peoples. The comprehensive nature of the Turkish-Jordanian relations deserves to be a paragon for other countries.

Within my good wishes for the future, I offer your majesty and the fraternal people of Jordan my heartfelt, sincere greetings.

Husayn Receives Evern 4 Dec

JN041300 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, this morning received His Excellency Turkish President Kenan Evern at the General Command headquarters. His majesty met with the guest president and they discussed a number of issues concerning the two friendly countries. Attending the meeting were 'Amir Khammash, court minister; Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayid ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; the chief of staff; and a number of the members of the delegation accompanying his excellency the guest. His excellency the Turkish president was briefed on the Jordanian Armed Forces and their tasks.

Economic, Industrial Agreement Signed

JN041906 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] An economic, industrial, and technical cooperation agreement was signed between Jordan and Turkey at the Industry and Trade Ministry this evening. Industry and Trade Minister Walid 'Asfur signed the agreement for the Jordanian side, and Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Ilter Turkmen signed it for the Turkish side. The agreement aims at increasing the economic, industrial, and technical cooperation between Jordan and Turkey, especially in joint projects, consultative services, contracts, companies, and banks. It also calls for increasing cooperation in trade, banking, tourism, transportation, public works, and building fishing and cargo boats. The agreement also provides for exchanging and training technical and specialized cadres in various fields. It has also been agreed that the Joint Jordanian-Turkish Committee, which was formed in accordance with the trade agreement concluded between the two countries in 1980, will assume the task of implementing this agreement.

Reportage on Visit of Hungarian Foreign Minister

Arrives 2 Dec

JN022059 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter Varkonyi arrived in Amman via Ar-Ramtha this evening on a 3-day visit to Jordan. In a statement upon arrival, Varkonyi said that his visit, which comes at the invitation of Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, is intended to further promote bilateral relations, expand spheres of the joint cooperation between the two countries, and hold talks on issues of common interest, foremost of which is the Middle East issue. Among those who welcomed the guest at the Ar-Ramtha border facility were the acting secretary of the Foreign Ministry, the Ar-Ramtha district officer, the director of the Protocol Department, and several members of the Hungarian Embassy staff in Amman.

Meets Badran, Ibrahim

JN041310 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office this morning Dr Peter Varkonyi, Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, and his delegation. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the means to promote them. Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim attended the meeting. Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied territories' affairs, also received Dr Varkonyi this morning and briefed him on the situation of the citizens in the occupied territories in light of the Israeli occupation authority's inhuman actions.

Received by Husayn, Al-Qasim

JN031309 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Peter Varkonyi, Hungarian minister of foreign affairs. The Hungarian minister conveyed to King Husayn his country's appraisal of his majesty's stands on recent developments in the region, and his country's support for the Arab viewpoint about the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is based on the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and guaranteeing Palestinian self-determination. The Hungarian minister conveyed his excellency the Hungarian president's invitation for his majesty to visit Hungary. His majesty the king accepted the invitation, and the date will be fixed later. Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the Hungarian ambassador in Amman attended the meeting. Marwan al-Qasim also received the Hungarian minister. They exchanged opinions on matters which concern both countries and on a number of current international issues. The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries and stressed their determination to promote these relations in all fields in the interest of the two friendly countries and peoples. The two ministers also discussed the tense situation in the Middle East in general, with special emphasis on the Palestinian question. They stressed their support for a just peaceful settlement based on the UN resolutions, the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and the guarantee of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination. The two ministers also discussed the tense Lebanese situation and the Iraq-Iran war. They called for intensifying world efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war and settle the Lebanese situation.

Leaves Amman 4 Dec

JN041848 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Peter Varkonyi, Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, left Amman this afternoon after a 3-day visit to Jordan. Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, the acting secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and chief of protocol at the ministry, saw him off at Amman airport.

JORDAN TIMES Criticizes U.S. Air Attacks

JN050659 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Adding Fuel to Fire"]

[Text] The U.S. air attack against Syrian ground positions in Lebanon on Sunday is a dangerous escalation of an already tense situation in the Middle East. Needless to say, such actions by Washington, authorised by the President himself, could only add more complications to the process of finding a solution to the Lebanon problem, in particular, and in the area generally. To condemn American attacks against the Syrian Army, whether in Lebanon or in Syria proper, for relation or whatever purposes, is not to say that we agree with the Damascus regime's tactics or strategy vis-a-vis the current political situation in the Middle East. But, it must be clear to everybody, above all the Reagan administration, that you cannot correct wrong with wrong and, in a volatile atmosphere like this, replace diplomacy by big guns, air raids, and hope for the best.

There has also been so much contradiction in U.S. policy on Lebanon in recent months that could not be settled by other means than going deep into the roots of the region's problems and striving for genuine progress. It is simply not good enough to cane the boy when his behaviour is peculiar, and end up hurting yourself and him in the useless punishment.

For all we know, Syrian policies on Lebanon have not benefited the Arab or the Lebanese cause; but has the U.S. not vacillated much in its judgement over them in the recent past? Syria's attempts to split the Palestinians and replace the legitimate leadership of the PLO with another subservient to its will have been most damaging to the Palestinian cause and have dealt a hard blow to the prospects of finding a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem; did the Reagan administration not bury its head in the sand when hearing about them, thereby missing a good chance to have a clearer picture of the situation in whose outcome it had a lot at stake? The Syrian regime's negative role in the Iran-Iraq war presumably has nothing in common with official business in Washington (only inasmuch as the Soviets came into it), but should the Americans continue to see things differently from one moment to another and from one place to the next, forgetting in the process its function as a global power striving for peace?

Whatever Washington has tried to do in attacking those Syrian positions in Lebanon, the results have not been encouraging, if not actually disastrous. The worst thing that could happen now is to continue along the same path of endless violence, endless suffering. More fighting in the Middle East will solve nothing. For the U.S. to get involved in any of it will throw us way beyond where we even started — if indeed we have started.

Reportage on Syrian Downing of U.S. Planes

SAM Missiles Fired

NC030836 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] At 0930 today SAM missiles were fired from Qartaba and the Upper al-Matn in the direction of two U.S. F-14 jets which were overflying the very positions bombed by Israeli aircraft 2 hours earlier.

U.S. Plane Reportedly Downed

NC040650 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0639 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] There is still much ambiguity over the identity of the planes which raided some positions in the mountain at 0810 this morning. The latest information says that the plane which crashed near Juniyah, east of Sarba Barracks, is possibly an American plane.

The pilot who bailed out is an American named Andrews. He is now at the naval base in Juniyah where he is receiving treatment for a slight wound. The identity of the pilot is a new factor in the development of this raid because it shows that the raid was American.

Security sources thought that the raid was French because when Pilot Andrews bailed out into the sea and was taken to the naval base, he was speaking in French. After tending his wounds, speaking to him, and finding out his identity, security sources say the plane is possibly American. This information is not final and is not competely clear. We are following up the developments to provide you with the latest reports.

Sources Confirm Planes Downed

NC040658 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0648 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text0) Security sources affirmed a short while ago that the two planes which were shot down are in fact American. The pilot who parachuted in Juniyah is Colonel Andrews and is American.

This is what was confirmed by security sources a short while ago. U.S. sources confirmed the shooting down of the two planes, but have not yet issued any official statement about this subject.

Plane Reportedly 'A-7' Type

NC040701 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0650 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The latest reports received say that the plane that crashed east of Sarba Barracks is an American-made A-7. The fact is that some military sources say they have never heard of this type of plane. The plane crashed into a house in Zuq Mikha'il, setting the house and several vehicles nearby on fire.

Pilot Reportedly 'Detained'

NC040732 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Two U.S. planes crashed during the morning raid against armed positions in Hammana, Falugha, and 'Ayn as-Shihah. Our correspondent says that the plane which crashed in Sarba after being hit by a SAM missile is a U.S. Corsair plane. The plane was hit during a reconnaissance flight. According to military books, this plane is not equipped for combat and has a speed of 1,200 km per hour. Another plane crashed in the Al-Matn area between al-Mutayn and Tarshish. The pilot has been detained by the forces in control there.

Helicopter Picks Up Pilot

NC040733 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0727 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The latest reports say that a U.S. helicopter landed a short while ago at the Juniyah naval base in order to pick up Captain Andrews who bailed out when his plane crashednear Juniyah. He will be taken to one of the U.S. ships off the Lebanese coast.

Pilot 'Captured' by Syrians

NC040842 Paris AFP in English 0839 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 4 (AFP) — One of two American pilots shot down over Lebanon during a bombing raid today was captured by Syrian forces, Israeli radio reported, citing monitored reports from Damascus. The pilot had been flying an A-6, the radio said. The second pilot, downed from an A-7, ejected safely off the port at Juniyah and was picked up by a U.S. helicopter, it added.

U.S. Pilot Killed

NC040929 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0920 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The latest information indicates that the U.S. pilot whose plane crashed in Kafr Salwan area and who parachuted into the Ta'nayil area was killed while parachuting after shots were fired at him. His body was thrown onto the main road outside a villa which belongs to a Kuwaiti in Ta'nayil. The Voice of Lebanon correspondent says that a crowd has gathered around him and is calling him names.

VOL on Downed Pilots

NC041039 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] One U.S. pilot was killed and three U.S. planes were shot down between 0800 and 0830 today during the U.S. raid on Syrian positions in the mountain and Upper Al-Matn. The U.S. pilot was shot by Syrian gunfire when he parachuted from his plane which was shot down over Kafr Salwan. Another pilot whose plane crashed in the Az-Za'rur area was captured. The third pilot was rescued. He is Colonel Eddie Andrews who flew his damaged plane to the Kasrawan area. He is 40 years old and a squadron commander. While parachuting, he was followed by three helicopters.

Foreign Ministry Summons U.S. Diplomat on Raid

NC041654 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1641 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] On the instructions of Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Fu'ad at-Turk summoned today the U.S. charge d'affaires in Lebanon and briefed him on the implications of the U.S. raid on certain Lebanese areas today. Prime Minister al-Wazzan asked to be provided with all the necessary information on this matter.

Al-Wazzan Comments on U.S. Air Raids 4 Dec

NC042000 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has described the U.S. raid on the Syrian positions in the mountain as a serious indication. He said: We denounce and reject everything that turns our territory into an arena for conflict. Prime Minister al-Wazzan was thus commenting this evening on the U.S. raid. He said it is a link in the chain of the complications that are exacerbating the Lebanese arena as a result of the continued Israeli occupation and of not enabling the Lebanese authority to regain its full powers on all its territory.

The prime minister said this indication must spur undelayed actions and stands, especially during these circumstances in which the two fraternal countries — Lebanon and Syria — sense dangers and the need for meeting and for cooperation. The Lebanese must expeditiously achieve unity and national reconciliation, which are the only guarantees for their homeland and for their safety. All the Arab states without exception must address the dangers that have reached their climax and help Lebanon in ridding itself of the Israeli occupation and of the justifications for the presence of the non-Lebanese forces in Lebanon, and, consequently, keep the Lebanese arena away from the conflicts that portend the big explosion.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: Lebanon, which has often warned of this explosion that could affect the entire area, renews its appeal to the Arab states and to their kings and presidents to support Lebanon's demands and to rescue it, because this is certainly in their interest as much as it is in Lebanon's interest. He concluded by saying: The United Nations, which has thus far allowed its resolutions to remain powerless — that is, ink on paper — must seriously assume its responsibility and implement these resolutions, before the world loses its hope for peace and the game of the mighty ones continues under the canopy of the United Nations and at the expense of the small states. This cry, which we direct at our people at home, at the brothers in our Arab environ, and at the world, is not the first in this respect but it could be the most alarming because of what we see or what we fear.

U.S. Embassy Spokesman Denies Evacuation

NC021520 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] We have received the following from the U.S. Embassy spokesman in Beirut:

A local news agency has reported that the U.S. Embassy has evacuated its nationals from Lebanon. This report is completely baseless.

U.S. Ships Bombard Gunmen's Positions

NC042049 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2046 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Unconfirmed reports say that U.S. warships began bombarding the armed positions in the Ash-Shuwayfat area 15 minutes ago following the persistent attacks by these positions on the Beirut Airport periphery, where the U.S. Marines' positions are located.

'Aramun, Baysur Areas Shelled

NC042101 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2056 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] We were told a short while ago that the U.S. warships' shelling has expanded to include the Socialist gunmen's positions in 'Aramun and Baysur. The shelling of Ash-Shuwayfat is continuing.

10 U.S. Marines Wounded in Artillery Shelling

NC042130 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2123 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received information to the effect that approximately 10 Marines, including some officers, were wounded as a result of the artillery shelling on their positions in the Beirut International Airport periphery. The Marines first answered with M-60 tank fire. U.S. warships then fired on the armed positions in the Ash-Shuwayfat hills, 'Aramun, and the surrounding area. Intermittent explosions can still be heard on the axes of the mountain and Beirut's southern suburb.

8 Marines Reported Killed

NC050554 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The U.S. Defense Department announced after midnight last night that eight U.S. Marines were killed and two others were wounded as a result of the shelling directed at their positions near Beirut International Airport yesterday evening. AFP, which carried the report, said that the Marine forces returned the fire. Guarded calm is now prevailing in the mountain and Beirut's southern suburb areas following a cease-fire agreement reached at 2200 yesterday.

Israeli Patrol Attacked in An-Nabatiyah 2 Dec

NC021742 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] At 1400 today, unidentified gunmen in An-Nabatiyah hurled a hand grenade at an Israeli patrol when it was passing through the commercial center near the Rivoli Theater. The gunmen then showered the patrol with volleys of gunfire. An exchange of fire ensued, leaving an Israeli soldier fatally wounded and four other civilians wounded. Immediately afterward, the Israeli forces cordoned off An-Nabatiyah and prevented citizens from entering or leaving the town for 2 hours. The Israeli forces then mounted a combing campaign in the streets and Israeli helicopters flew at a low altitude.

Israeli Planes Hit Syrian Radar Facility

NC030806 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Preliminary information indicates that the two Israeli planes which carried out a bombing raid hit a Syrian radar facility in the (?Ru'aysat) as well as Socialist, Syrian, and Palestinian positions in Bhamdun, Mansuriyat Bhamdun, and Sawfar. SAM missiles were fired from Qartaba and the Upper Al-Matn in the direction of the two Israeli jets.

Israeli Planes Raid 'Positions' in Mountain

NC030631 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0626 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] At 0805 today Israeli warplanes raided positions in Bhamdun, Mansuriyat Bhamdun, Sawfar, and Ru'aysat Sawfar. No details are available so far.

AFP Report on Raid

NC030731 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, Dec 3 (AFP) — Israeli aircraft today attacked Ash-Shuf mountains east of Beirut, Lebanesee national radio reported. (In Jerusalem, a military spokesman said the raids were aimed at "terrorist organizations positioned in territory under Syrian control." He said they came "in response to a long series of attacks and terrorist acts directed against Israeli soldiers in Lebanon." He said all Israeli planes returned safely to their bases, after having achieved their objectives. Analysts noted that the raid came in the middle of the Jewish sabbath, which would proscribe such action except under extreme circumstances.) It was not immediately known in Lebanon if the air raids had caused any casualties.

Israelis Cut Roads in South 3 December

NC030819 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] The Israeli forces this morning cut the Az-Zahrani-an-Nabatiyah main road at the Kafrwah junction because of yesterday's operation in An-Nabatiyah. Eyewitnesses of yesterday's operation said they saw the bodies of three Israeli soldiers lying on the ground. The Israeli forces also cut all accesses to Al-Khiyam at the Dibbin-Hasbayya- al-Khiyam triangle and at the Al-Qulay'ah-Ad-Dardarah-Tall an-Nahas triangle.

Israeli Plane Reportedly Downed Over Lebanon

NC040625 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0620 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] A short while ago warplanes attacked armed positions in Upper al-Matn, particularly in Hammana, Falugha, and 'Ayn as-Sihhah.

While all official quarters have maintained silence over the identity of these planes, it has been learned that they are Israeli and are composed of a formation of 10 planes.

These planes raided positions in Hammana, Falugha, and 'Ayn as-Sihhah.

Antiaircraft fire and SAM missiles were fired at these planes. One of the raiding planes crashed over Juniyah in Kasrawan and the pilot parachuted.

Eyewitnesses contacted our studio a short while ago and said that another plane fell near the Al-Mutayn area.

No further details are available about the shooting down of the second plane.

French Super Etendard Reportedly Crashes in Sarba

NC040630 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0625 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text]Security sources say that the raid which was waged against some areas in the mountain is a French raid.

Formations of French Super Etendard planes attacked Jabal al-Knaysah and Al-Mughiti. The plane that crashed in Sarba is a French plane of the Super Etendard type.

The pilot bailed out into the sea. The Lebanese naval base in Juniyah was able to pick up the pilot safely. He is now under treatment.

French Defense Ministry Denies Air Raid in Lebanon

LD040925 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text]This morning Lebanese radio reported that there was also a French air raid in the same region where the U.S. raid occurred. But the Defense Ministry in Paris categorically denies this report.

Quote: The French Ministry of Defense states that there was no air operation by the French Navy Air Forces on Lebanese territory this morning — end of quotation. This is a flat denial on the subject.

Further on Al-Jumayyil's Visit to Washington

Al-Jumayyil on Syrian Withdrawal

NC021317 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1142 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Telephone conversation between Fu'ad, a Beirut Radio announcer, and Rafiq, a member of the Information Ministry mission accompanying President Al-Jumayyil in Washington — live]

[Excerpt] [Fu'ad] The press, especially the international news agencies, today carry very interesting reports about the speech that President al-Jumayyil made during his meeting with the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate yesterday. Among the points in which interest has been shown are the statements that have been attributed to President al-Jumayyil. These include his statement that Syria is expected to adopt a less intransigent stand on the question of withdrawals. What is the truth regarding these statements, and what exactly did President al-Jumayyil tell the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives during his meeting with them yesterday?

[Rafiq] Fu'ad, what you are referring to came in fact in a statement made Charles Percy, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. The fact is that we are constantly noticing during our stay here in Washington that attention is focused on Syria's stand. Even yesterday, when Presidents al-Jumayyil and Reagan were walking in the White House garden after the conclusion of their meeting, a journalist who was standing at the White House courtyard together with the photographers approached and asked President al-Jumayyil when Syria will withdraw from Lebanon. President al-Jumayyil replied: Soon, soon.

Al-Jumayyil, Salim News Conference

NC022125 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Dec 83

[News conference by President Amin al-Jumayyil and Foreign Minister Elie Salim following meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington, D.C. on 2 December; questioners not identified — recorded in English]

[Text] [Al-Jumayyil] I had yesterday an important meeting with President Reagan and today a very useful meeting with Secretary Shultz. I hope that through those two meetings we will be able to accomplish some very important things within a few weeks, and it was also an occasion for us to explain what is going on in the north, through the expose given by [former Prime Minister] Dr Amin al-Hafiz, and in the south, through an expose given by Dr 'Ali al-Khalil. Now I leave the floor to Foreign Minister Dr Salim, who will give you some more details about those meetings. Thank you.

[Salim] I will answer questions. That will be more help to you rather than make a statement.

[Question] [Sentence indistinct]

[Salim] We came with a set of very specific questions. I believe we have received concrete answers to all the questions. There are some questions that must be discussed further before we can say that we have complete and concrete answers. The meetings will continue. There will be meetings today and meetings tomorrow. I think we have had an extremely successful series of discussions and I believe that the major objective of this visit has been achieved.

[Question] Are you satisfied with [words indistinct] the U.S. secretary of state has announced — are you satisfied with the creation of [words indistinct]?

[Salim] All the steps that were outlined by Secretary Shultz were steps that his team and our team discussed at length. They represent joint thinking. Therefore, they meet the joint objectives of Lebanon and the United States in attaining the objective, which is the full withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. We are satisfied with the purposes of the visit, and we are satisfied with the program that has been worked out for the implementation of the objective.

[Question] [Words indistinct] major objective here. What is the major objective?

[Salim] The major objective of Lebanon remains the full withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon, the consolidation of Lebanese authority and sovereignty throughout the territory of Lebanon, and the reconstruction of the country as we consolidate government authority. So the major objectives of the government remain large objectives. There are many specific and detailed steps that have to be taken to attain this large objective. But we should not forget the major purposes as we discuss specific programs leading to the overall objective.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Syria will be more cooperative in the coming stage?

[Salim] We believe that we have good working relations with Syria, that the Geneva conference showed that there is a high level of cooperation that has been attained recently between Syria and Lebanon. We hope that this cooperation will continue. We will be meeting with the Syrian authorities upon our return to Lebanon. We will arrange for Syrian authorities to visit Lebanon or for us to visit Syria, because coordination at this stage is extremely important for the national objectives that the government of Lebanon has set for itself.

[Question] [Sentence indistinct]

[Salim] I believe that there is a positive spirit on the part of the Syrians to help the Lebanese Government consolidate its political authority in the country. I believe that there is a new momentum, that the leaders in the opposition in Lebanon have gained in Geneva, and that President al-Jumayyil will be making continuing contacts with the leaders of the opposition to include them in a future expanded government so that everybody, all the major leaders in Lebanon involved in the existing conflict, will share in the governing process and in the tough decisions that have to be taken to free Lebanon.

[Question] [Sentence indistinct]

[Salim] We discussed with Secretary Shultz today, as we had discussed with the President yesterday, ways and means to implement our objectives, which remain the full withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the south and the withdrawal of the Syrian and the PLO forces from the north and east of Lebanon. We are concerned especially with the mechanisms and the conditions that will attain this objective. Lebanon will honor any commitment that will ensure the full withdrawal of foreign forces, of non-Lebanese forces, from its territory. Lebanon is essentially concerned with withdrawal. If there is a wholly political objective in Lebanon, it is the regaining of the independence of the country and the restoration of the sovereignty of the government over all its territory. We believe that any mechanism that attains this objective is a good mechanism.

[Question] Are we nearer now than we were 10 days ago?

[Salim] We are nearer today than we were yesterday, and yesterday than we were 10 days ago.

Al-Jumayyil on UN-Sponsored Exit

NC031305 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Informed sources report that President al-Jumayyil has telephoned UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and has called his attention to the request submitted to the United Nations to evacuate the Palestinians from Tripoli under the UN flag. President al-Jumayyil told the UN Secretary General that Lebanon does not consent to such a request, because it does not know anything about it. What is at issue here is the principle of government sovereignty and responsibility. Despite the fact that north Lebanon is under occupation, the handling of any issue taking place on Lebanese soil must only take place with the consent of the legitimate authority. President al-Jumayyil said Lebanon opposes any solution to which the government is not a major participant. The government should use whichever security organs it deems appropriate in supervising any measure which is taken, including the evacuation of gunmen or civilians. Lebanon does not accept to be an onlooker on any operation taking place on its soil — it must be a major party. The Lebanese objection was conveyed to the UN member states.

Makes Washington Departure Statement

NC032218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2205 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Statement by President Amin al-Jumayyil prior to departure from Washington at conclusion of official visit on 3 December — recorded in English]

[Text] Good afternoon. We have spent 3 days of intensive discussions with President Reagan, Secretary Shultz, and other members of the administration. We have met with congressional leaders and with representatives from the private and public sectors interested in the Middle East and in the Lebanese problem. I take this opportunity to thank President Reagan and members of his administration for their strong and consistent support for the cause of Lebanon.

We have in this visit forged a strong working partnership. We have established a high-level joint committee for the implementation of our common interests and objectives. We discussed a wide variety of subjects and developed ways and means of their realization. Uppermost in our minds, of course, is our determination to secure the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. We have in this visit reviewed the mechanism and conditions that will lead to the liberation of Lebanon and to the restoration of its sovereignty over all its territory within its internationally recognized boundaries.

This visit is part of an ongoing process. We in Lebanon are determined to continue the process of dialogue, reconciliation, and reforms which took positive shape at the Geneva conference, to consolidate exclusive government authority in all unoccupied areas, and until full withdrawal is attained to reactivate Lebanese civilian authority in areas under external control and occupation. In this context and in the existing spirit of cooperation, we have found the American leaders fully supportive of our goals. We have also discussed the urgent humanitarian needs of hundreds of thousands of displaced Lebanese from all parts of Lebanon, and in particular the fate of the besieged town of Dayr al-Qamar. The war fought in Lebanon for the past 9 years has raised many difficult problems that are not going to go away overnight. I am confident also that we are on the right track, and that substantial and decisive progress is being made. Thank you.

President Al-Jumayyil Arrives in Paris

LD042324 Paris Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Paris a short while ago from Washington. The length of his stay is not known.

Al-Jumayyil Returns Home From U.S. Visit 5 Dec

NC050606 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Beirut at 0700 today from Paris where he stopped over while on his way from New York following the Lebanese-U.S. summit and his talks with senior U.S. officials.

Outcome of Lebanese-U.S. Talks Summed Up

NC030805 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0540 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Dispatch by unidentified member of the Lebanese Information Ministry mission from Washington — live]

[Excerpts] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil will today conclude his official visit to the United States, leaving the U.S. capital for Beirut after having had a series of talks with U.S. officials which were crowned by the summit between Presidents al-Jumayyil and Reagan at the White House last Thursday. The outcome of the Lebanese-U.S. talks can be summed up in six main points as follows:

1. The United States has renewed its commitment to support Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, to seek to reestablish the legitimate authority over the occupied territory, and to consolidate this authority in the unoccupied territory.

2. The United States has affirmed its commitment to seek the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanese territory in accordance with a schedule that is currently being worked out through consultations to be held later by Donald Rumsfeld, the envoy of President Reagan to the Middle East, who will return to the area next week.

3. U.S. support to the Lebanese Army to consolidate and provide it with the necessary equipment and promote training and modernization of the Army. A Lebanese-U.S. committee has been set up for this purpose. This support stems from the U.S. affirmation that the Lebanese Army is considered as a main pillar for a strong rule that is capable of confronting the coming phase with increasing determination to reestablish the state's authority over its territory.

4. U.S. support of the action plan, led by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil to bring about a national reconciliation, which stems from the positive atmosphere that pervaded the National Dialogue Conference held in Geneva last month. Washington supports the idea of expanding the base of representation in the government so as to include various Lebanese leaderships, in order that any decision made will be at one national level, particularly in respect of fateful decisions.

5. U.S. economic support to Lebanon to confront the challenge taking place in the economic situation as a result of the unstable security in various areas. A committee is to be set up to draw up an economic and development plan to confront the coming phase.

6. Washington's support of the Lebanese Government to draw up a speedy and comprehensive action plan for tackling the displaced people's conditions in all Lebanese areas, particularly in lifting the siege of several mountain villages, including Dayr al-Qamar.

Further on Death of Shaykh Taqiy ad-Din

Al-Wazzan Discusses Investigation

NC021821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Today Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan chaired a security meeting at his residence. The meeting was attended by the Army commander, the acting director general of the Internal Security Forces, and the commander of Beirut Police Corps. The meeting was devoted to discussing the latest security developments and following up the ongoing investigations into the assassination of Shaykh Taqiy ad-Din. In a statement following the meeting, Prime Minister Al-Wazzan said: The perpetrators meant to create sedition in Lebanon and eliminate a person who worked for the sake of Lebanon's unity. They also meant to strike at the national unity. Regarding the ongoing investigations, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said the security directorate will make strenuous and extraordinary efforts to establish facts. The security directorate will give a valuable reward to whomever gives substantial information — in addition to the information already available at the security organs — contributing toward uncovering the identity of the perpetrator.

Reward Offered for Assassin

NC021504 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Statement issued by the Internal Security General Directorate on 2 December]

[Text] To enable us to complete the investigations being conducted concerning the assassination of His Eminence Shaykh Halim Taqiy ad-Din, the General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces announces that it has decided to give a valuable reward to whoever assists the authorities uncover the identity of the criminal. Citizens can call the Public Affairs Office near Hotel Dieu or call the following telephone numbers: 392108, 386440, and 338700.

Inquiry Centers on Relative

NC021310 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] In West Beirut, the Lebanese Army and security forces intensified security measures in the streets amid partial closure of shops and education institutes in some areas. The closure comes in response to a call by the shaykhs of Muslim factions mourning the death of Shaykh Halim Taqiy ad-Din, who was assassinated yesterday. At 1300 today, the funeral service for Shaykh Taqiy ad-Din was held in the Druze Community House. Regarding the assassination investigation, preliminary information, leaked by judicial sources, implied that the assassin was a youth related to the family of Shaykh Taqiy ad-Din and acquainted with him. The examining magistrate in Beirut issued warrants today to the officials concerned to investigate the perpetrator.

Al-Wazzan Denounces Israeli Practices in South

NC031751 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has expressed regret over what is taking place in the south. He denounced the Israeli practices that took place in An-Nabatiyah today in response to yesterday's operation against an Israeli patrol.

He said: The cordoning off of An-Nabatiyah by the Israelis pains us, just as all the arbitrary Israeli measures pain us, be they represented in the raids, detentions, or the closure of crossing points. He emphasized that the state is doing all it can to confront these measures in Lebanon through contacts with the United Nations and influential states.

Reportage on Explosion Caused by Car Bomb

VOL Report on Explosion

NC050639 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0622 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] A huge explosion occurred at 0804 today in the As-Sabil area — the 'Azzat hill — east of the Al-Maqasid hospital. Security forces sources say the explosion was caused by a booby-trapped car that had been parked in this area. Internal security force sources have said that the explosion was caused by a car that had been parked in a garage in the area. These sources say that three buildings are now burning. Furthermore, there are a huge number of casualties — and the security forces have not yet been able to specify this number accurately. However, civil defense sources say that a number of citizens have been held on the upper floors of these burning buildings, adding that civil defense and other first aid men are overseeing the evacuation of these buildings and giving the citizens first aid. At any rate, we remain with you to provide you with further details as soon as we receive them.

Casualties Rushed to Hospitals

NC050828 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Firemen and civil defense workers are still trying to extinguish the fires which broke out as a result of the explosion which took place at Habbub Garage this morning. Ambulances are also continuing to move casualties to the hospitals. The casualties have been taken to Al-Barbir, Al-Maqasid, and the American University hospitals. Seven wounded people were taken to the American University hospital, 54 wounded and 2 dead were taken to Al-Maqasid, and 18 wounded and 3 dead were taken to Al-Barbir hospital. The fire spread when a paint thinner depot opposite the garage was hit. Buildings within an area of about 500 square meters were damaged. Citizens are requested to keep out of the area of the explosion in order not to hamper the firefighting and rescue operations. All the junctions and roads leading to the place of the explosion are closed. The Lebanese Army, the internal security forces, the fire brigade, and the civil defense workers are taking part in the rescue operations. Military prosecuter General Wafiq al-Husami went to the explosion site to begin investigating.

10 Dead, 100 Injured

NC050925 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Civil Defense Director Nazih Sham'un has announced that civil defense and fire brigade teams have been able to extinguish the fires which broke out following the explosion which took place this morning in Habbub Garage, in Lubbus quarter, near Al-Maqasid hospital and to rescue all those trapped inside the buildings. So far 10 dead and about 100 wounded people have been removed and taken to Al-Barbir, Al-Maqasid, and the American University hospitals. The explosion caused the collapse of the balconies of a five-story building and the collapse of the garage building which had two floors.

Trapped People Rescued

NC050901 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0840 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] We have just received the following: Civil Defense Director Nazih Sham'un has announced that all the people trapped inside the buildings in which fire broke out after the explosion that took place near Al-Maqasid hopsital this morning have been rescued. Sham'un said that so far 6 dead and 54 wounded people have been removed and taken to Al-Maqasid and Al-Barbir hospitals. He said that the explosion resulted from a booby-trapped Fiat 132 GTS vehicle loaded with 150 kg of TNT. The explosion took place opposite a paint thinner store. This caused more fires and caused the fires to quickly spread to the neighboring buildings.

Strong Explosion Reported in Center of Sidon

NC051040 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic1031 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] It appears that there are security developments in the south. According to our latest information, a strong explosion took place this morning in the center of Sidon, destroying two stores. The circumstances of this explosion are still unknown. The Israeli Army has cordoned off the area.

Army Guidance Directorate Shortens Curfew Hours

NC021329 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate reminds the citizens that, effective today, curfew will be imposed as before, namely from 2000 until 0500.

VOL: 150 Soviet, 60 GDR 'Experts' Leave Syria

NC021433 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that 150 Soviet and 60 GDR experts have recently left Syria following Damascus' decision to reduce the number of these experts there.

Druze Lift Siege on Dayr al-Qamar 4 Dec

NC041158 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] It seems we now have an important news item which we must broadcast before the midday journal.

We have with us on the telephone our colleague Wasif 'Awwadah, from the home of Walid Junblatt, where a news conference is being held by Fu'ad Salman. It seems an important decision has been made to lift the siege on Dayr al-Qamar. Let us hear what Wasif 'Awwadah has to say.

[Begin recording] Fu'ad Salman, secretary general of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], declared a short while ago that the siege of Dayr al-Qamar has been lifted and that all the citizens and Lebanese forces will be allowed to leave the town. At the news conference, which is still in progress, Salman said PSP leader Walid Junblatt has authorized me to declare in his name that he and His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad abu Shaqra, religious leader of the Druze community, adopted a decision today to allow all the Lebanese present in Dayr al-Qamar and the Lebanese forces' personnel to leave Dayr al-Qamar within10 days, so that they may be able to join their families on Christmas and New Year.

At the news conference, Salman said Walid Junblatt and His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad abu Shaqra adopted this decision without any preconditions and without demanding anything in return. He added that it is very important for me to announce this great humanitarian decision on the 66th anniversary of the birth of leader Kamal Junblatt. We will contact all the foreign and Arab embassies to inform them of the decision, especially the states that have military forces on Lebanese territory, as well as the International Red Cross. We ask that quick measures be taken to enable all those present in Dayr al-Qamar to leave the town and join their families and children. This is the outcome of the news conference held by Fu'ad Salman. [end recording]

Phalangists Shell PSP Positions in Al-Kharrub

NC041603 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The Lebanese forces' 5th Branch has issued a statement saying that these forces have been shelling the emplacements of the [Progressive] Socialist Party [PSP] in Iqlim al-Kharrub since 1745 this afternoon in retaliation for the shelling of peaceful townships in the region since this morning. The Lebanese forces urged the region's inhabitants to stay away from the PSP positions. The statement stresses that the Lebanese forces' shelling is directed only against the foreigners in the region who attack its peaceful villages. The Army's positions in the Khaldah and Radio Orient areas [in Beirut] are coming under shelling and bursts of gunfire from Ash-Shuwayfat. The 'Aramun hills are being subjected to similar shelling and gunfire from 'Aramun.

Press on U.S.-Israeli Agreement, Withdrawals

NC030847 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The newspaper *AN-NAHAR* deals in an editorial with the dimensions of the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel and says: The matter appears primarily as an appeal to Syria to be realistic in Lebanon. This is because, as the United States and Israel have said, the 17 May accord will not be amended. Damascus finds itself facing this option: Either it will raise its relations with the Soviet Union to the level of the U.S.-Israeli relations, with all that this implies at the Arab and international level, or it will admit the difficulty of reaching a strategic balance with Israel. Once again it appears that the test will be in Lebanon.

AS-SAFIR says reports on the U.S.-Israeli agreement are still general and few. These say that the agreement between the two sides did not go into detail and that the talk about military cooperation was more political than military, although not devoid of a military element, particularly in the wake of Israeli Defense Minister Arens' statements ruling out the possibility of joint Israeli-U.S. military action in Lebanon.

The paper adds: Given its preoccupation with the presidential elections, all that the United States can do is to coordinate with Lebanon to bring about a partial Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

AL-LIWA' deals with a new U.S. formula to bring about the withdrawal of foreign forces and quotes diplomatic sources close to the Lebanese presidential delegation as saying that the Lebanese and the U.S. sides agreed on this formula and that the talks were focused on details of scheduling the foreign forces' withdrawals. *AL-LIWA'* says the plan is based on the principle of the disengagement of foreign forces and on the abandonment of the idea of simultaneous withdrawals called for by Israel or the advance and final Israeli withdrawal called for by Syria.

3 U.S. Planes Shot Down, 1 Pilot Detained

JN040933 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] A military spokesman in Damascus has reported the following: At 0803 this morning, 4 December 1983, formations of U.S. fighter planes consisting of F-14 and Corsair A-7 aircraft bombed our positions in Kafr Silwan, Falughah, Hammanah, Dahr al-Baydar, Jabal al-Kanisah, and Sawfar. Our air defense units in the region confronted them, shooting down three planes. The first crashed in Juniyah, the second in Kafr Silwan, and the third in Za'rur. One of the pilots was detained.

Our losses are: two martyrs and eight injured. A vehicle and a munitions depot were also hit.

Weinberger Allegations on Pilots Denied

JN051321 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Syrian newspapers affirmed today that Syrian forces captured only one U.S. pilot whose plane was downed in yesterday's raid. The newspapers added that U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger's allegations that Syria has detained two U.S. pilots were made with the intention of holding Syria responsible for the pilot who was killed.

Message Sent to U.N.

JN041248 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, sent a message today to the secretary general of the United Nations and to the chairman of the UN Security Council. The following is the text of the message:

In an escalated military move, the U.S. Air Force bombed our positions in the northern Al-Matn region of Lebanon this morning. The bombing resulted in the martyrdom of two soldiers and the wounding of 10 others, some of them seriously. These hostile operations clearly reveal the objectives and plans of U.S. policy and the role of the U.S. forces in Lebanon and the Mediterranean area in undermining the independence and sovereignty of the region's countries. The United States is thus shirking all the special responsibilities toward security and peace which the UN Charter has placed upon it in its capacity as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

This raid has come in the wake of a similar action conducted yesterday by Israel against some Lebanese towns and villages. This reveals the joint nature of the U.S.-Israeli action, which was agreed upon during the recent visit to Washington by Yitzhaq Shamir and his minister of defense. These U.S. and Israeli military operations constitute both a serious development in the regional situation and a threat to world peace and security. They also constitute a new shift in U.S. policy toward the region and the world, thereby placing the region and the world in a grave and complicated situation, the negative effects of which will be reflected upon all the peoples and nations of the world.

I am sending you this message so that you might distribute it among the member states. I also hope that you will take adequate measures to stop the hostile policy which the United States is pursuing in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Kindly accept my great esteem and best wishes.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam sent similar messages to the secretary general of the Arab League, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Indian foreign minister in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau.

Ambassadors Informed of Raid

JN041826 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The Syrian Foreign Ministry summoned all Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to Damascus today, and informed them of the Syrian Government's profound concern at the U.S. air raid conducted against our forces in Lebanon. They were also asked to inform their governments of the serious situation prevailing in the region as a result of the U.S.-Israeli military escalation, which should be condemned and denounced by all states in the world.

AL-BA'TH, TISHRIN on Raid

JN050848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Revenge or War?" *AL-BA'TH* writes: At last, Reagan has implemented his military decision and ordered his planes to raid our positions in Lebanon. What does the U.S. President want from a declaration of war against Syria, and what does he hope to achieve?

If we calmly and objectively view the series of U.S. actions which prepared the ground for the invasion of Lebanon and have brought the cause of the Middle East to the post-invasion stage, it is clear that the U.S. Administration, the decisions of which are personally supervised by Reagan, has lost its sense of balance in dealing with the Middle East and in providing justifications for any action that it launches or any decision which it makes and implements. This means that it is foundering in a political and military dilemma. The least one can say is that the U.S. President understands only the logic of force, even if this threatens world peace and security. Does such a president deserve to be in a position of responsibilty in a superpower?

AL-BA'TH adds: Undoubtedly, if this matter does not concern us it does concern the American people, who are paying the price for their administration's rashness and complete bias in favor of Israel. What does concern us, however, is our reaffirmation of the fact that we are not responsible for the U.S. dilemma and that we will not permit the Reagan administration to fulfill its dreams and designs in the region in accordance with a distorted logic and ridiculous justifications.

According to some of the justifications offered by Reagan and his team, yesterday's raids were in reply to our firing upon his reconnaissance planes; another states that the raid was launched to protect the Multinational Force stationed in Lebanon. Does this justification, which contradicts all the norms of international law, mean that the United States alone has the right to do what it wants? Are the daily sorties over Lebanon by F-14's merely for recreation?

AL-BA'TH says: It is clear that the U.S. Administration is seeking to portray these raids as a revenge operation in order to conceal its decision for war. Thus, we pinpoint what Reagan wants. He wants the region to become another Vietnam. Our reply is very clear and explicit. We shot down several of his planes and captured one of his pilots. Will he review his decision or will he continue to insist on the imbalance?

Commenting on the same topic, *TISHRIN* states: When the Pentagon spokesman said that the U.S. Administration informed its Western allies of the objectives and reasons for the raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon, he implicitly admitted that the raid was premeditated and that both its overall guidelines and even its details were formulated in the Pentagon. When the U.S. war ministry spokesman said that the U.S. raid was directed against Syrian military positions, he admitted attacking the forces of an independent and sovereign country without any justification. The truth is that this is not strange and does not come as any surprise. It is now evident that this is one of the direct results of the visit made by the two terrorists, Shamir and Arens, a visit which was crowned by the conclusion of a new cooperation agreement between the U.S. Administration and the government of the Zionist entity.

TISHRIN adds: A glance at the provisions of this document makes it clear that the imperialists and the Zionists have decided to carry out joint military actions on the basis of unified security plans. This is in addition to expanded cooperation between their intelligence services and the use of Israeli bases by U.S. forces. Within this framework, one can understand the dimensions of the U.S. raid on the Syrian military positions in Lebanon, a raid which took place as part of the campaign of escalation launched by the United States a desperate attempt to subjugate Syria and force it to surrender.

TISHRIN concludes: If we in this country are eager to increase our defensive capabilities, as was confirmed by the downing of the three U.S. planes, we are not alone in the imperialist enemy's arena of confrontation. This is so because all the world's progressive and freedom-loving forces, foremost of which are the socialist bloc countries led by our friend the USSR — the strategic ally of the Arabs — are on our side, as they realize that victory over imperialism in any area of the world will be a victory for freedom and progress in the world. From this premise, we wage our battle, the battle for honor and dignity, and from this premise, we shall triumph, because people always triumph.

International Reaction Reported

JN050811 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The U.S. raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon has aroused a great wave of anxiety at the international level. This comes at a time when reports from Washington have confirmed that the operation was premeditated and linked to the attack by Israeli planes launched the day before yesterday against Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party positions in northern Al-Matn. This raid took place after the U.S. Administration notified its allies in the Multinational Force of its intentions. Political circles in Washington and Israel have linked this air raid — which Reagan personally approved — to the U.S.-Israeli strategic and military cooperation agreement that was concluded during the Israeli prime minister's visit to Washington. This is the same agreement which observers consider to be a direct threat of war against Syria.

The Lebanese nationalist forces extended greetings and expressions of pride to our heroic fighters opposing U.S.-Zionist aggression. Through their praise of our air defense units' confrontation with and downing of three U.S. fighter aircraft, these forces declared that the downing of those planes over Lebanon confirms the steadfastness and determination of Syria's Al-Asad and points up the fact that the decisive battle with the enemies of the Arab nation is not far away.

In Moscow, TASS noted that the bombing of Syrian positions in Lebanon by U.S. planes came in the wake of Shamir's visit to Washington. It explained that Shamir's talks with U.S. officials dealt with coordinating U.S.-Israeli military operations in the Middle East.

In Athens, AP noted that the new, escalated situation in Lebanon is the topic which has attracted the attention of the leaders of the EEC countries, who have gathered in the Greek capital to hold their meeting.

In Stockholm, a report on the Syrian air defense's confrontation with the U.S. planes, the downing of three, the capture of one U.S. pilot and the killing of another was carried as the lead item on Swedish radio and television newscasts yesterday. Swedish television accompanied its report with a film clip at the beginning of its newscast, and the radio carried the Syrian military spokesman's statement concerning the U.S. air raids on Syrian positions in the Lebanese mountains and the downing of three U.S. planes during yesterday's incidents.

Italy's defense minister, Giovanni Spadolini, expressed his country's concern at the U.S. escalation of the Lebanese situation. In an address to war college students at Livorno, he declared that the U.S. raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon raises Italy's anxiety. He also alluded to the fact that his country might reconsider the role of its contingent in Lebanon. He added that the commander of Italy's contingent in Beirut was notified by the United States before the raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon took place.

A spokesman for the British Ministry of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs admitted last night that his government had been notified in advance of the U.S. raid launched yesterday against Syrian positions in Lebanon. AFP quoted this spokesman as saying at a press conference held in Athens yesterday that the countries which make up the Multinational Force are in close contact with one another, and that their position is based on the right of each member to react in cases of self-defense, as he put it. The spokesman explained that in a fast-paced and changing situation, each member of the force has the right to take immediate and urgent measures when, as he put it, they are deemed necessary.

Palestine Broadcast on Raid

JN042100 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "On the Events" program]

[Text] The United States and Israel have begun to transform the results of Shamir's talks with President Reagan — which were characterized by a spirit of aggression — into military action against the Syrian positions and those of the Lebanese nationalist forces. Following the raids launched yesterday by Israeli warplanes against the positions of the Lebanese nationalist forces, U.S. planes staged a raid against Syrian positions in Lebanon this moning. Syrian defense units confronted these planes, shooting down three and capturing a U.S. pilot.

The U.S.-Israeli air raids against Syrian and Lebanese nationalist positions fall within the framework of the successive U.S. and Israeli threats against Syria. They also mark the implementation of the strategic agreement recently concluded between Reagan and Shamir, an agreement that was originally directed against Syria and its allies in the Lebanese arena.

On the other hand, news analysts and political observers have agreed that the United States has stripped itself of all the weapons it has used to mislead the Arabs for 30 years following its direct declaration of war against Syria and the Arab issues. The strategic research institutes of Europe, together with U.S. universities, are currently studying the political feasibility of the strategic agreements conclude between the United States and Israel. Those who follow the Middle East from the strategic research institutes of British and U.S. universities believe that the honeymoon in the imbalanced relations between the United States and the Arabs has come to an end, despite some signs which the White House views as positive. These include the sharp turn of certain Arab leaders, including King Husayn, toward Israel.

Political observers in the West predict that the Camp David accords, which Washington considered to be the basis of its Middle Eastern policy, are now, in light of the U.S.-Israeli agreements,viewed by the Arabs as an obstacle that should be removed.

5 Dec U.S. Reconnaissance Sorties Reported

JN050930 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] U.S. planes overflew the Lebanese capital this morning. Reports from Beirut state that U.S. planes carried out these sorties for reconnaissance purposes.

AFP cites Major Brooks, spokesman for the U.S. Marines in Lebanon, as saying that U.S. Marines in Lebanon have been placed on full alert.

3 December Israeli Raid on Lebanon Reported

JN030922 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] A military spokesman has reported the following:

At 0805 today, a group of enemy planes bombed Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party positions in the northern Al-Matn area. Our air defense units in that sector confronted the enemy planes, prevented them from achieving their mission, and forced them to return toward the occupied territories.

Raid Opens 'Aggressive Operation'

JN040927 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Beginnings of a Joint U.S.-Israeli Act of Aggression," *AL-BA'TH* notes: In addition to material support in the military sphere, the United States has provided Israel with the necessary cover to conduct any act of aggression in every stage of the Israeli campaign of aggression against the Arab nation. The United States — with all its military, political, economic, and even executive and legislative institutions — has been at the disposal of Israeli demands since the Shamir-Arens visit to Washington.

From the first reading of the results of the Shamir-Arens visit, we see that the U.S. Administration insists on subjugating the Arabs. This administration is not satisfied with declaring that it will allow no one to harm Israel's security; it added that the Shamir-Arens talks were largely devoted to the execution of measures which — the U.S. Administration believes — will end the Syrian stand which threatens U.S. policies and plans in the region.

AL-BA'TH continues: It appears that the raid conducted by Israeli planes against nationalist positions in the Lebanese mountains marked the beginning of the measures which Washington and Tel Aviv had agreed to implement against Syria. Reports from Beirut asserted that U.S. planes protected Israeli aircraft during the Israeli act of aggression yesterday. Thus, the U.S.

Administration has finally moved from being a supporter of all Israeli aggressive plans to being a practical partner in any Israeli act of aggression against the Arabs.

It has been categorically proven that U.S. policy supports Israel's rejection of international resolutions related to its withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. Evidence of this can be seen in the frank U.S. stand regarding the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The Reagan Administration — through U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger — announced that it opposes Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon before certain issues are resolved, foremost of which are acceptance of the 17 May agreement — the agreement of submission — as a fait accompli, and the unconditional withdrawal of Syria and the Palestinians.

AL-BA'TH states that the joint U.S.-Israeli military command began functioning yesterday, after the U.S. Administration realized that Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces cannot accept the so-called fait accompli. The joint Zionist-U.S. air raids were the beginning of large-scale aggressive operations against the steadfast Arab forces. *AL-BA'TH* explains that the results of the Shamir-Arens visit to Washington have made it completely clear that it would be a big mistake to believe that the United States is working for peace in our region. The United States, which is helping Israel become an empire, seeks the complete capitulation of the Arabs.

It is regrettable that there are some people in our homeland who remain convinced of the U.S. role. Jordan's king is one of them. The king of Jordan publicly announced the day before yesterday that he would welcome 'Arafat in Amman as a first step in working together to reach a settlement with the Zionist enemy. He added that such a solution would be in accord with the Reagan plan, announced in September 1982 in the wake of the expulsion of Palestinian resistance forces from Beirut.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The Arab masses are now called upon to assume a strong and firm stand in the face of what the United States — together with Israel and in coordination with some parties in our region — is carrying out. This stand must be transformed into action. The Arab nation will be capable of responding to the U.S. challenge if it wants to respond; there are many ways of doing this. The conclusion is that yesterday's Zionist raid — launched with U.S. protection — is only the beginning of a larger aggressive operation.

TISHRIN on Raid

JN040949 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 4 Dec (SANA) — *TISHRIN* asserts that the Israeli raid against nationalist positions in the Lebanese mountains yesterday is undoubtedly a message to the region from Reagan, as well as Shamir. These Israeli raids cannot be separated from the continuous Phalangist attempts to disrupt security and inflame the arena with the fires of war.

In today's editorial, headlined "Signs of Aggression," *TISHRIN* adds that everything that is now taking place gives the impression that the imperialist-Zionist alliance has decided to wage a new round in the war — which has never stopped — against the nationalist forces and their ally, Syria. Proceeding from this concept, Al-Jumayyil's visit to Washington achieved nothing. This was due both to Reagan and Shamir's refusal to change one letter in the agreement of submission, and to Reagan's granting Shamir a free hand in Lebanon and the region. *TISHRIN* asserts that Reagan cannot be in favor of Lebanon or any Arab country as long as he has chosen to support only Israel and to launch a U.S.-Israeli war against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces.

TISHRIN calls on President Amin al-Jumayyil to learn from the current and previous bitter experiences with the U.S. Administration and Israel, and to dot the i's and cross the t's by standing at the side of Lebanon and not at the side of the U.S. and Zionist enemy. *TISHRIN* warns that the next days and weeks will be a time of fierce danger. The paper asserts that, should the Lebanese rulers and President al-Jumayyil take a stand against the U.S.-Israeli scheme to disrupt the situation, and come out in support of the national dialogue and of an understanding with Syria, a number of gaps will be closed, gaps through which the aggressors are planning to penetrate and perpetrate their acts of aggression against the Lebanese and Syrian people.

ATH-THAWRAH on Role of U.S., Israel in Lebanon

JN040724 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, *ATH-THAWRAH* asserts that the intransigence of the U.S. Administration, as well as its failure to understand the requirements for security and stability in Lebanon, no longer come as a surprise to those betting on the U.S. card. This is so because they have become convinced that depending on the United States does not bring any guaranteed results, and that the U.S. forces in Lebanon are forces of occupation which are not interested in Lebanon's stability and security. These sole interests of these forces are to implement the U.S.-Israeli scheme for the division of Lebanon, impose their hegemony upon it, coerce its people, and destroy its civilization.

The U.S.-Israeli scheme is no longer a secret; it is now an openly announced position. One facet of this scheme is represented by the negative results of Al-Jumayyil's visit to Washington. The other facet emerges in the formula behind the hostile alliance which resulted from Shamir's trip to Washington. Lebanon and the Arab nation must realize this, and take action based upon it. This is due to the fact that betting on the United States is geared to Israel's interests and to achieving its aggressive and expansionist designs on the entire Arab homeland. What Lebanon is facing is an example of joint U.S.-Israeli aggression and its objectives.

TISHRIN on 'Shameless' U.S.-Israeli Alliance

JN031020 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] In an article entitled "A Gun For Hire," *TISHRIN* comments on enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to the United States, which achieved unexpected results for the Zionist entity. The paper says: Nearly 2 years ago, the United States concluded an undeclared strategic alliance with Israel. The provisions of that alliance, or rather the few that have been leaked, stipulated that the alliance constituted an undeclared U.S. war against the Arabs, with a stay of execution. At that time, we warned that it was a most dangerous alliance, because it threatened the Arab nation with aggression and guaranteed absolute Israeli superiority over the Arabs as a whole. It was announced a few days ago that this strange alliance has been officially signed and would now begin to be implemented. This is the first time that the United States has announced, through this alliance, that it is directly supporting Israel against the Arabs.

In practice and in reality, there is nothing new or surprising in this alliance. The United States has always been directly involved in the conflict and completely hostile to the Arab nation. This is how it has been, and how it will always be. Nonetheless, we never expected the United States to officially announce itself as Israel's ally against all the Arabs, and declare that it is dutybound under this alliance — which is a contract based on mutual consent — to provide Israel with all the means necessary to achieve its superiority over the Arabs. This holds true regardless of the types of weapons — conventional or otherwise — needed to achieve this superiority.

It is obvious from this alliance that the cowboy mentality still dominates Reagan's behavior and serious decisions. Stockpiling weapons, turning Israel into a hellish base for the United States, and guaranteeing Israeli security and mutual U.S.-Israeli interests in the region — with all the military and strategic commitments arising from these objectives against Syria and the USSR — are the traditional excuses used by the United States whenever it wants to declare war on any state that rejects its hegemony and solutions. In practice, this means that the United States does not care about its responsibility as a superpower. The United States places its interests and those of Israel above all other considerations, even if this means setting fire to the entire world.

The astonishing paradox is that the United States is seeking to rationalize this shameless alliance against the Arabs by claiming that it takes the interests of moderate Arabs into account. We don't see how this can be possible. We don't see how the interests of these moderate Arabs can possibly be in harmony with the interests of Israel. How can the United States reconcile, even theoretically, the interests of these moderate Arabs with those of Israel, which is armed to the teeth and can punish any Arab who dares reject its hegemony or refuse to pay it tribute? Perhaps it is correct to say that the arms given Israel are specifically meant to punish the Arabs and make them pay tribute to ensure their continued existence. This is an insult to the intelligence of moderate Arabs, or rather contempt for that intelligence. The United States first wants to neutralize these moderate Arabs, in order to handle Syria separately, and then go back and humble these moderate Arabs one by one.

The contract which established this alliance refers to the common interests of the United States and Israel. Note the word Israel here — the common interest in preserving Lebanon as a free, sovereign, and independent state. This means that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was launched for the sake of preserving Lebanon's sovereignty, freedom, and independence. The continuing occupation of southern Lebanon serves the same purpose. Any observer can only consider such expressions to be political debauchery.

The contract states that Syria is a danger to peace and to Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. What an insult to logic and to the intelligence of the Arabs. Israel, which has destroyed Lebanon and Beirut and burned everything with U.S.-supplied tools of mass annihiliation and devastation, stands for the sovereignty, freedom, and independence of Lebanon. Israel, which has imposed an agreement upon Lebanon which deprives it of its entire capacity to make national decisions, stands for the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon. The U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance has been concluded for the sake of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. Syria, the danger and obstacle to peace — according to the contract establishing the alliance — must be besieged and confronted.

It is very clear that the question goes far beyond Lebanon, its sovereignty, and what they term the moderate Arabs. In short, it is a matter of turning Israel into a frightening U.S. base, a huge arsenal for all types of conventional and unconventional weapons, so that it may play its role — within U.S. foreign policy — against the Arabs, Syria, and their friends, particularly the USSR. The United States has involved the region in a frightful arms race, and no one knows where it will end. Hence, our talk about its insensitivity vis-a-vis its own responsibility to world peace and to finding real solutions to the world's hot spots. The United States is pushing the area to the brink of catastrophe when it floods Israel with devastating weapons to annihilate the Arabs.

The Arab nation will not simply stand by while Israel and the United States attempt to tamper with its destiny. It is only natural and inevitable for the Arabs to find the means that will enable them to protect their destiny and future and to defend themselves. The danger lies in this sudden shift in the Arab-Zionist conflict. In the past, the United States used Israel as a hired gun to kill the Arabs. Today, the United States has itself become a hired gun in Israel's hand against the Arabs. The United States is now preparing itself, through its massive naval presence in the Mediterranean Sea and its strategic alliance with Israel, to become that gun in order to achieve Israel's ambitions. Strangely enough, it is the United States that has volunteered to become a hired gun for Israel. The United States is carrying out Israel's wishes and expansionist plans.

No one knows how the moderate Arabs — whom the United States regards with contempt — will react. At any rate, we will not stand idly by watching the hired U.S. gun. We will explore every means that will enable us to confront this reckless and aggressive U.S.-Israeli alliance. Just as we are not frightened by fleets, so we will not be frightened by alliances, in this case, an alliance we knew about even before it was made public. We realize that the relationship between the United States and Israel may well exceed what was announced in the agreements. We will find the means that will improve our performance, arms, and strategic capabilities to the point where we can confidently confront that hostile alliance against our nation.

Only the wishes of Syria and the Arab nation will prevail in this region, because Syria is the living conscience of that nation. Remember the words of the struggler Hafiz al-Asad: We are the ones who will determine the history and geography of this region.

U.S.-Israeli Pact 'Danger' to Regional Peace

JN031256 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 3 Dec (SANA) — *ATH-THAWRAH* asserts that the new strategic agreement which resulted from the visit paid to the United States by enemy Prime Minister Shamir constitutes a danger to the security and stability of the Middle East. The paper also describes the accord as a blatant challenge to the international community's will to establish a just and permanent peace in the region.

In its editorial, *ATH-THAWRAH* notes that the United States and Israel have clearly declared their joint objective at this stage to be confrontation with the Syrian military buildup in the region. This means that, first and foremost, the agreement will be directed against Syria. This is true because it falls within the framework of preparedness and readiness to launch a joint act of aggression against Syrian forces in Lebanon under the slogan: Expelling Foreign Forces [from Lebanon].

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: Syria is fully aware that its battle with imperialism and Zionism will be long and hard. If Washington and Tel Aviv are trying to frighten Syria or force it to change its positions, this will be futile. Syria neither fears nor submits to threats, because it depends upon the firmness of its people, its adherence to principle, and its unlimited readiness for sacrifice.

Damascus Predicts 'More Hostile' U.S. Stand

JN041638 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the U.S. position concerning the conflict between the Arab nation and the Zionist enemy will continue to be as it is. The more support the enemy and its campaign of aggression receive, the more hostile the U.S. stand toward this nation and its rights will become. Following the promotion of the U.S.-Israeli alliance during Shamir's visit to Washington, it has become very difficult for any observer to find a single difference between the stands adopted by the two countries. The United States no longer hesitates to present itself as a full partner to Israel, even on the level of implementing the details regarding the aggressive plan against Syria and the Lebanese people. The United States, as a superpower, has gone far beyond announcing its joint intentions with Israel; it has reached the point of direct military coordination. U.S. and Israeli planes have begun to fly over Syrian positions in Lebanon as if they were guided from the same operations room. This comes in addition to details regarding the promotion of the strategic alliance involving these two aggressive parties. These details are reflected in the staging of joint maneuvers, the storing of U.S. weapons and medical supplies in Israel, the use of Israeli military, naval, and air bases to serve the interests of U.S. forces, and the conversion of Israeli debts and loans into grants.

In light of the promotion of this alliance, the question that any observer would ask is: Can any other alliance be stronger than this Israeli-U.S. alliance? Can we not say that Israel is a U.S. state, or in fact a forward U.S. police station in the Arab region? Before the development of the Israeli-U.S. alliance, some Arab rulers spared no effort to justify the hostile U.S. stand toward the Arabs and their rights. They believed that the limits of this alliance were confined to so-called Soviet penetration. Now, these rulers have nothing to say. Some of them have announced that they will continue to follow the conspiratorial and aggressive course, whlie others have remained silent and cautious. Can caution be of any use to them should Israel move its forces and occupy part of their territory in order to implement its hostile and expansionist objectives and ambitions? Do they hope that the United States will protect them or prevent Israel from taking an expansionist or aggressive step in accordance with the organic alliance between Israel and the United States? Do these Arab rulers not realize that the United States supports — and indeed is a direct party to — Israel's expansionist plans?

It is time for all Arabs to realize that the United States is not a friend of any of them. This will continue to be true as long as its Israeli ally does not distinguish between this or that Arab state, or this or that Arab regime when it decides to carry out its hostile and expansionist plans. Every Arab must also realize that the Israeli-U.S. alliance has become stronger due to the impotence and weakness of the Arabs. This impotence and weakness are due to the incongruity of their positions, the contradiction of their courses, and their ignorance regarding the benefits that would accrue to their nation and countries from the path of solidarity.

The danger of the U.S.-Zionist alliance is no longer confined to such plans as might be implemented in Lebanon or against Syria and the Palestinian people. It is now in a position to threaten the Arab nation's entire pan-Arab existence. Do the decisionmakers of our Arab nation understand this? Do they realize that it is not too late to reach even a minimum level of agreement in order to confront the danger posed by the U.S.-Zionist alliance, and to support the fighting state of Syria, which confronts aggression and expresses the sentiments and aspirations of this nation?

UK's Richard Luce Arrives on Visit 3 Dec

JN031833 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Richard Luce, UK minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in Damascus this evening on a 2-day visit to the country. Minister of State Faruq ash-Shar' led those welcoming the British minister at Damascus International Airport.

Received by Khaddam

JN041652 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — At 1700 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Richard Luce, the United Kingdom's minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs. Also present at the meeting were Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; Sulayman Haddad, director of the West European Department at the Foreign Ministry; and the British ambassador in Damascus.

Prior to this meeting, Faruq ash-Shar' had received Richard Luce. Their talks dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in the Lebanese arena, and bilateral relations.

Luce's Remarks Reported

JN041954 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Richard Luce has made a statement to our television correspondent in which he described the objective of his visit to Syria and the results of his talks with Syrian officials. He said: First, I would like to express my pleasure at this, my first visit to Syria as a minister responsible for Middle Eastern policy under the supervision of Geoffrey Howe, secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs. I assumed my responsibilities in June of this year. I am pleased with this visit, which gave me an opportunity to hold talks with Syrian officials. We attach great importance to the opinions and positions of the Syrian Government. We also believe that Syria has a distinguished and important role role to play in the regional situation. Therefore, I consider this visit to be very important.

Luce added: I held talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Faruq ash-Shar'. These meetings were very useful and covered the Israeli-Arab conflict and the Lebanese situation. We also touched upon the Iran-Iraq war.

In reply to a question regarding his assessment of the Syrian stand toward the development of the regional situation, Luce declared: As I said earlier, we discussed the Lebanese situation as part of the development of the regional situation. I also heard the Syrian side of this issue. I appreciate the Syria's opinions and viewpoints. In light of what I have become acquainted with, I see that our viewpoints are similar regarding the Lebanese situation. We would also like to see Lebanon as a sovereign, stable, and independent state. Thus, there is a joint desire for an urgent move by the parties concerned to resume the national dialogue.

Regarding Syrian-British relations, Luce said: We have taken advantage of this visit to shed some light on our bilateral relations. We also agreed that the role played by our ambassadors in London and Damascus will maintain a constructive dialogue between the two countries, at both the bilateral and international level.

Press Agreement With USSR Renewed 4 Dec

JN041610 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 4 Dec (SANA) — The joint cooperation agreement between the USSR Union of Journalists and the Syrian Journalists Union was renewed here today. Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Yukhin, several members of the Syrian Journalists Union Executive Bureau, and the delegation of newsmen currently visiting Syria attended the signing ceremony.

Following the signing of the agreement, Sabir Falhut, the doyen of Syrian journalists, delivered a speech in which he praised the cooperation between and joint struggle being waged by Syria and the Soviet Union. He said: Our Syrian Arab people, who are rallying around the brave and wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, will not be frightened by U.S.-Israeli aggression. Their steadfastness will not be harmed by the brute force of massed NATO units, because this brave steadfastness represents the dignity of the Arab masses and satisfies their desire to sacrifice and to preserve pan-Arab dignity. He added: Our people are supported by all the world's progressive forces, foremost of which is the Soviet Union, the Arabs' loyal friend and their leading ally against the peoples' enemies.

(Toming Khino), head of the Soviet journalists delegation and secretary of the USSR Union of Journalists [name and title as received], also spoke and affirmed the Soviet journalists' pride in the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between Syria and the Soviet Union. They stressed the continuing Soviet support for Syria's just struggle to deter aggression, confront U.S. threats, liberate occupied Arab territories, and establish a just and lasting peace in the region. He also proclaimed the pride taken by Soviet journalists in Syria's steadfast position toward liberating its land and achieving a just peace.

The agreement was signed by Dr Sabir Falhut on the Syrian side, and by (Toming Khino) on the Soviet side. This accord calls for the development of trade union and press relations between the two organizations in all fields of information.

Report on Weekly Cabinet Session 4 December

TA041255 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1250 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The Cabinet's weekly session ended a few minutes ago and when it ended Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said that this morning's U.S. bombing in Lebanon was done out of purely U.S. considerations following the firing of missiles at their planes, without any coordination or connection with yesterday's Air Force action. Meridor added that Israel understood the U.S. reasoning. The Cabinet secretary also rejected the claims made yesterday that the Israeli Air Force had hit Druze forces. At today's Cabinet session the ministers were given a report on the Air Force bombing and this morning's U.S. action. The Cabinet heard a briefing about the prime minister's talks in Washington and tomorrow Mr Shamir will make an announcement to the Knesset about this.

Further on Cabinet Session

TA041316 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Tomorrow, 5 December, the prime minister is to give an announcement in the Knesset about his visit to the United States.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that at the Cabinet's weekly session this morning, Mr Shamir reported on the agreements [sikumim] achieved during the visit and explained to the ministers why no reports were sent during the visit. The Cabinet held a discussion on the matter.

The Cabinet secretary refused to confirm or deny whether there had been any coordination between Israel and the United States on the matter of the U.S. planes' bombing of Syrian Army positions in Lebanon. He said that the action by the U.S. Air Force planes originated in the U.S. decision to react to attempts to attack its aircraft.

'Arafat Aid Opposed

TA041534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Israel is categorically opposed to having the United Nations help the terrorists get out of Tripoli. At the end of the Cabinet meeting, sources told our political correspondent that Israel does not think that an organization that is supposed to promote peace in the world should help in transferring terrorists from one place to another so that they can operate against Israel and other elements.

Our correspondent has learned that at the Cabinet session Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said that Israel should make sure that Yasir 'Arafat and his men fall into Israel's hands upon their departure from Tripoli.

Arens Reports to Cabinet

TA041840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The defense minister reported to his colleagues in the Cabinet that in his talks in Washington he had submitted a document to administration leaders from which it emerges that the living conditions of Arabs who are inhabitants of the territories have improved. He also said he had raised Israel's complaints about the activity of the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem.

Shamir Rebukes Levi

TA050717 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir chided Deputy Premier David Levi at yesterday's weekly Cabinet session for having complained to the media last week that he was not getting any briefings about the progress of the top-level talks in Washington, an informed source said after the meeting.

Levi, who was acting prime minister during Shamir's absence in Washington (and who also holds the housing portfolio), said last Thursday that he was embarrassed and perplexed at knowing nothing about the talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and therefore having nothing to reply to his colleagues' inquiries.

Shamir said at the Cabinet meeting that any minister who sought to air a disagreement, a misunderstanding or a complaint, should not use the media, but should "follow the proper course of putting a direct query to the prime minister in private."

Shamir was replying to Levi, who mentioned his lack of information during the course of his comments along with other ministers about the Washington talks.

Shamir was described by one of those present as "rebuking Levi forcefully rather than angrily." Shamir's colleagues took this as a signal that the prime minister would not tolerate the sort of backbiting his predecessor Menahem Begin sometimes chose to swallow in silence.

4 December Cabinet Communique

TA050818 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 4 Dec 83

["Text" of Communique issued following the Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on 4 December]

[Text] A) The Cabinet heard a report on the (Israel) Air Force action in Lebanon yesterday. The discussion on this topic was in the framework of a Ministerial Defense Committee (session).

B) The Prime Minister briefed the Cabinet on the details of his visit to the United States.

The prime minister reviewed the talks held with President Reagan, administration personnel and members of Congress, and the various conclusions reached.

The minister of defense added to the prime minister ('s remarks).

Following the reviews, the Cabinet held a discussion.

The prime minister will make a statement to the Knesset on this matter tomorrow.

C) The deputy foreign minister reported to the Cabinet on the visits to Israel of the foreign ministers of Haiti and Chile.

D) The prime minister informed the Cabinet that he has appointed the economist, Mr Nisim Parukh to the position of economic advisor to the prime minister.

The appointment is effective as of 1.12.83, and was made with the knowledge and consent of the minister of finance.

E) The minister of communications and the minister of finance submitted to the Cabinet the draft of an agreed resolution, adopted by the Cabinet, on the issue of the date for the commencement of the validity of the "Bezeq" law, 5742, 1982.

F) The Cabinet approved the January departure of the president of the state (of Israel) for an official visit to Zaire, Liberia and Swaziland.

Foreign Ministry Denies Secret Agreement With U.S.

TA041322 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1252 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry denies the reports from this morning's British press that a secret agreement between Israel and the United States has been formulated on military means to get the Syrians out of Lebanon. An official source in the Foreign Ministry, in a briefing for foreign correspondents in Jerusalem, commented that the United States and Israel had agreed upon political ways to pressure Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Comments

TA041538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem has categorically denied reports that in the talks between the prime minister and administration leaders in Washington a secret agreement was concluded against Syria and the Soviet Union. The spokesman confirmed that in the talks both sides expressed their concern over the rapid armament of Syria by the Soviet Union and agreed that political pressure should be exerted on Syria so that it will agree to withdraw from Lebanon.

Quoting sources at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, foreign correspondents report that the agreement on strategic cooperation between Washington and Jerusalem does not apply to operational cooperation in Lebanon and that Israel and the United States will continue to operate independently in this area.

Shamir Interviewed in U.S. 30 November

TA021057 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Dec 83 p 14

[Interview with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Ya'aqov Erez and 'Oded Granot in Washington on 30 Nov]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir faced a tough and complicated mission this week in Washington. His associates say that he did it in his own way: quietly, thoroughly, and while adhering to his principles. "Shamir is a tough man. He cannot be broken. Even in the most difficult moments, when it was not clear whether the administration would agree to even part of our demands, he did not get upset. [no closing quotation marks as published] "If they do not comply this time, we will bring up the requests time and again and then they will comply. The United States has its own interests which it cannot ignore," said a person in Shamir's entourage.

The prime minister's wife, Mrs Shulamit Shamir, added: "He does not get upset by stress. In the short time we were in Washington I did not get the impression he was under stress. He is a calm man. Even in his most difficult moments in the underground he kept his cool."

Yitzhaq Shamir, who is characterized by his associates as a "pragmatic hawk" this week acted like someone attacking his victim, not willing to let him go. Although he seemed a little nervous when he came out, accompanied by President Reagan, to meet correspondents at the White House, it seems this nervousness was a result of his inexperience with such occasions. During the long discussions, the members of the Israeli team received the impression that the prime minister likes to hear all the details, hear a wide range of opinions, and examine all the possibilities before reaching a decision or deciding on an attitude.

Shamir and Arens were warmly received in Washington. Everything was done in order to make Shamir feel good. Some say that the Americans did this to show their reservations with former Prime Minister Menahem Begin and former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon.

On Wednesday evening, before lighting the first candle of Hanuka, I asked Mr Shamir questions about how he felt during the talks with the Americans.

Question: Is the U.S. approval of Israel's request a result of the fact that you are prime minister?

Answer: The Americans hold talks with the prime minister and the defense minister. Today we held negotiations that only people in this position can hold. The change of personalities has no special significance; it is the role that these people play that is important.

Question: Correspondents in Washington were told that the non-rejection of the Reagan initiative during the talks has awakened in the U.S. Administration hopes for more flexibility on the part of the Israeli Government.

Answer: If there are such hopes, they are false hopes. In the first talk with President Reagan I said that the ideas he expressed in his speech on 1 September are unacceptable to us. I do not think the U.S. Administration has any illusions about this.

Question: Did you get the impression that the welcome you received in Washington was a welcome for a new and more open prime minister, even though his views are known?

Answer: I did not get any special impression. The results of thetalks arise from the political analysis they made, from their aggregate experience in the Middle East. All this led them to draw conclusions that are reflected in the results [sikumey] of the joint discussions.

Question: In your opinion can the results [sikum] of the talks be called a success?

Answer: I do not talk of successes. I think that the results [sikumim] are positive. They will help us in our political struggles, in our security position, and in our efforts to improve the economic situation.

Question: Did you feel in Washington as if you were undergoing your first leadership test?

Answer: Such thoughts and feelings are very far from me when I am fulfilling such a mission. All my thoughts are devoted to the issue at hand. The welcome was warm and hearty and is a result of the Administration's attitude toward the State of Israel.

Question: Do you believe the visit will strengthen the position of the government?

Answer: The visit will strengthen the position of the country.

Question: What are Israel's central problems, as we approach the end of the visit?

Answer: We have several complex problems: the economic problem, the aspects of which are quite well known; the political-security problem, primarily the problem of Lebanon; and the Syrian threat. Actually, that is all.

Question: What in your opinion is the most important achievement of the visit?

Answer: Look, in all the areas we touched on we reached a modicum of agreement with our U.S. counterparts. I have reason to hope that the results of the decisions [sikumim] in the political-security area and in the economic area will be implemented in the field. If this does happen, this will be a real achievement.

Question: What is the message or the news you bring with you on your return from the United States?

Answer: I would not use such words as message or news. I will inform the public about the strengthening of the friendly relations between us and the United States, and about the results we hope to achieve through this improvement in relations. Our advance in all areas, after all, does not depend on any outside element, be it the most friendly one. It depends only on Israel's strength and unity, the unity of its efforts toward advancing our national goals.

Commentator on U.S. Visit, Cabinet Meeting

TA040613 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — recorded]

[Text] Israel and the United States made an unwritten strategic alliance in Washington against two sick men, as one of the U.S. Administration leaders put it: Yuriy Andropov, the Soviet leader and Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian leader.

One of the major objectives of the prime minister's visit to the United States was to signal to the Soviet Union and to Syria that Israel will be strengthened by the Americans and will win U.S. support. This morning Yitzhaq Shamir will report to the ministers that, as far as this is concerned, the visit was successful.

Israel's strengthening will be manifest not just in words but in practical steps such as in the economic sphere. There is a U.S. willingness to discuss and rapidly complete the agreement on establishing a free trade zone between the two countries as well as to increase economic aid to Israel. This matter will help increase the trust in Israel's ability to cope with its economic problems, as I was told by political circles last night.

It should be said that most of the agreements reached in the United States are on paper only and require further discussions in the framework of joint committees. Their test lies in their implementation. For this reason the prime minister is cautious not to use pretentious words in characterizing the achievements of the visit. Shamir settled for describing the current general state of relations, saying this is one of the fine hours in Israeli-U.S. relations.

This idyll may be disrupted in the domestic arena. The ministers who did not receive any reports on the talks by Shamir and Arens in Washington were not blind to the fact that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres conferred with the prime minister in the United States and received a full report on the talks. The prime minister's reaction, to the effect that this is a tempest in a teacup, added insult to injury. Those close to Acting Prime Minister David Levi said that in the past Israel paid a high price when state affairs were managed by a kitchen Cabinet [allusion to Golda Me'ir's time]. David Levi is not prepared to support this style in the future. It is worthy of note here that Mr Levi believes this is not a personal matter but is a question of the proper handling of state affairs.

Difficulty in Concluding Washington Agreements

TA040722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Israel and the United States are finding it difficult to reach a concluding formulation on the talksand agreements reached by the prime minister and defense minister in Washington. U.S. Administration officials want to play down the importance of the binding validity of the agreements while Israel wants to emphasize that the agreements are binding. Our political correspondent reports that a U.S. Pentagon delegation will arrive in Israel this month to discuss the purchase of equipment for the U.S. Army.

Further on Agreement Document

TA040826 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 83 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report from the United States by 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Washington — Israel and the United States are currently working out a joint document which will give an official stamp to the overall cooperation between them and will declare, among other things, U.S. support for Israel in its opposition to hostile Soviet activity. This has been learned by the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent.

The document is currently being discussed and formulated by the two countries and its final form has not yet been completed.

According to one of the sources [not further identified], it is still possible that formulation acceptable to both sides will not be found and the document will not be completed, while other sources [not further identified] claim that the chances for a positive conclusion are good.

The emphasis of U.S. support for Israel against the Soviet Union is intended to strengthen the joint Israeli-U.S. policy to deter Syria and make it clear to the Syrians they cannot act in Lebanon as they please.

Arens Meets With West Bank Settlers

TA021128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] A meeting between the representatives of the Judaea and Samaria settlers and the defense minister ended a short while ago. The chief of staff, the commander of the Northern Command, and the coordinator of activities in the territories also participated in the meeting.

Our correspondent Shalom Oren has learned that a number of decisions have been made, some of which were considered by the settlers. Measures which the Defense Ministry began adopting last week will be continued and intensified. Several measures, such as heavier penalties and the expulsion of lawbreakers, are still being examined. Our correspondent adds that in a few days the defense minister will meet with the Judaea and Samaria settlers again to hear their complaints.

Further on Arens Remarks

TA041205 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the representatives of the settlers that their declarations and actions are damaging to the settlement cause. He met with three representatives in his Tel Aviv office at noon on Friday, after the settlers stated they would leave Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus provided they could meet with the minister. Arens made it clear to the settlers that their presence at the site is not legal, a remark which did not meet their satisfaction, and that it is unnecessary to convince him of the need for settlements, and particularly not in the manner that they have adopted.

As for the safety on the roads, the minister promised the settlers he is aware of the problem and that the security forces have introduced new measures and additional forces to the area. At the same time, Arens said he is not sure it is absolutely possible to prevent the throwing of stones. The representatives of the settlers asked the minister to come for a talk with a large number of the settlers in the Berakha settlement near Nabulus and the minister accepted. The meeting will apparently be held tomorrow afternoon. It should be mentioned that Arens had previously refrained from going there when a ceremony was held to turn Berakha into a civilian settlement.

IDF Attacks 'Terrorist' Positions in Lebanon

TA030710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] This morning Air Force planes attacked terrorist headquarters and positions in the area of Bhamdun and Sawfar in southern Lebanon. All our planes returned safely. This was announced by the IDF spokesman. The spokesman noted that our aircraft attack was done in reaction to a long series of attacks, terrorist activity, and attempts against our soldiers in Lebanon. The pilots reported exact hits on their targets. Our military correspondent reports that the headquarters and bases attacked this morning belong to a number of terrorist organizations, all acting under Syrian influence. The Voice of Lebanon reported that two IDF aircraft took part in the bombing. According to the station correspondent, the aircraft hit a Syrian radar position, Syrian Army, Junblatt forces positions, and terrorist positions. The Voice of Lebanon goes on to report that strong antiaircraft fire, by SAM's as well, was directed toward our planes. These details have not been confirmed by any other source, and as said all our aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Spokesman on Antiterrorist Operations

TA041915 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1855 GMT 4 Dec 83

["Defense Ministry Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Jerusalem, 4 Dec (ITIM) — In reply to questions, the defense minister's adviser on communication affairs this evening stated that Israel is following a policy according to which the terrorists should not be allowed to deploy in areas evacuated by the IDF. According to data in our possession, the adviser added, there are some 500 terrorists of various Palestinian organizations in the Ash-Shuf-'Alayh area at present. They are mainly concentrated in areas surrounding the Beirut-Damascus highway (such as in Bhamdun, 'Alayh, Sawfar and also in Al-Mansuriyah) and around the Christian enclave in Suq al-Gharb (such as in the Kayfun-Baysur area).

Among others, the terrorists belong to the following organizations: Fatah, Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, Hawatimah's Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and As-Sa'iqah.

Israel also regards local Druze inhabitants as being responsible for preventing the reestablishment of an infrastructure for terrorist activities in the areas evacuated by the IDF and expects them to work toward driving away the terrorists.

Jerusalem Reports U.S. Raid on Syrian Positions

TA040927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] More than 20 U.S. bombers attacked Syrian positions north of the Beirut-Damascus highway. Two planes were downed. The Pentagon spokesman in Washington explained this was in reaction to heavy fire directed yesterday at two U.S. planes which were making regular reconnaissance flights over the Ash-Shuf and Al-Matn mountains. The spokesman emphasized that at least 10 SAM missiles were fired at the bombers and therefore this could not be a decision by a local commander but by Syrian senior officers.

The U.S. aircraft took off this morning from the aircraft carrier *Independence* and bombed Syrian positions near Hammana, (Baluwa), (Dayr as-Saha), and Sawfar. According to Lebanese media, one plane, an A-6, with two pilots on board, was downed near Hammana which is under Syrian control and at least one pilot was taken to the Syrian Army's Command in this town. The other plane, an A-7, with one pilot on board, crashed near Juniyah. A Lebanese Navy boat rescued the pilot from the sea. He was flown by helicopter to the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzah and from there, by helicopter again, to the U.S. aircraft carrier.

The Voice of Lebanon radio station reports that a U.S. bomber squadron is now flying over the Lebanese coast.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Damascus radio has not yet reacted to the bombing.

Press on U.S. Raids

TA050946 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *HA'ARETZ* writes that it is hard to be convinced by Cabinet Secretary Meridor's statements that the U.S. and Israeli Air Forces acted independently in Lebanon. If their actions were coordinated, what are the goals? Should these two strikes be interpreted according to the statements made by official spokesmen, that they were retaliatory actions or were they intended as a prelude for things to come? We are entitled to expect the government to make it clear to us just where it is heading. The prime minister's statements in themselves cannot dispell the doubts.

HATZOFE writes that we must exercise utmost caution in evaluating the latest events. While the U.S. action was definitely justified, and there may be room for similar actions in the future if the Syrians continue their present course, there is no reason to welcome a battle.

On the contrary, after what has happened, the call for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East must be renewed. Israel must not toy with global settlements, but view the situation through Israeli eyes only; and it is only from this aspect that it must determine its future moves.

If Israel has any influence on U.S. activity in Lebanon, it lies in the fact that this time Pentagon officials have concluded that attacks must be met with counterattacks. Israel, having acted accordingly throughout all its wars, has this time succeeded in bringing those who rejected retaliatory acts in the past to the realization that this is the only way to fight the enemy.

DAVAR states that U.S. spokesmen took pains to stress yesterday that the object of the strike was a limited and tactical one, that the United States is not interested in a war with Syria in Lebanon, and that the strike was not aimed at getting the Syrians out of there. If that is the case, then the action is of no particular significance. If, however, it denotes the beginning of planned violence, it bodes ill for Israel. Israel has no interest in becoming entangled in a war with Syria. Our interests lie in leaving Lebanon without further bloodshed. This must be in the forefront of the government's thoughts at all times and in all its decisions.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that the menace of a new war looms. Israel is being dragged into a new war adventure. This dangerous downhill gallop must be stopped at all costs, since it will involve our country in a futile and catastrophic war.

The paper adds that the hope of our being able to lean on the United States and its might will lead our country into ruin. It is not too late to withdraw from the unholy alliance. There is no reason to further sacrifice the lives of our soldiers on the altar of ineffectual plans for defeating Syria or neutralizing the Soviet Union in our part of the world.

HAMODI'A noted that at this stage the United States has no choice but to be prepared for any eventuality, however unexpected.

President Reagan will no doubt take into account the risk that a military action against Syria could well give rise to grave tensions, including in the sphere of U.S. relations with the Arab world. Obviously, given this state of affairs, Israel must be extremely watchful, and prevent the Syrians from wreaking their wrath on Israeli targets in revenge.

THE JERUSALEM POST writes that the prime minister would do well to make it clear in his Knesset statement today that despite U.S. pressure on Israel to increase its commitment where Syria is concerned, Israel continues in its reluctance to be drawn into a major conflict with the Syrians, other than when its own self-defense is concerned.

Further Press Comment

TA050950 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *MA'ARIV* notes that in certain situations it is not the truth that counts, but the way this truth is perceived by the other side. The new situation created in the Middle East yesterday is explosive, principally in view of the conclusions Damascus and Moscow are drawing from the U.S. action. However, given the tense situation that has been created, the Syrians will presumably first wish to verify whether Moscow is prepared to support their reactions.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT believes that several things confirm the reports of a strengthening U.S. orientation in Israel: The use of the Israeli Air Force against the terrorists and Syrians the day after Shamir and Arens returned from Washington; the participation of the United States itself in the action; the increasing edginess of the Egyptians and the other Arab states; the commentaries in the U.S., British, and French media; and Washington's rejection of the anti-Israeli line taken by Al-Jumayyil.

Finance Minister Comments on U.S. Economic Aid

TA021823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The finance minister has said that even if the scale of U.S. aid is increased by 10 or 20 percent, this will not solve the economy's deficit in the balance of payments, or Israel's economic problems. Minister Kohen-Orgad said that only the economy's coping with the difficulties would help eliminate the deficit. He pointed out that in the next fiscal year, it will benecessary to cut from the budget more than was cut this year. However, it is still too early to mention sums, because this is stilling clarified. The finance minister said that the heads of the chambers of commerce were exaggerating in their fears about cutting down imports, and he proposed that they direct their commercial skills and energy to increasing exports. Minister Kohen-Orgad was speaking with our correspondent David Margalit.

Ghali on Return of Egyptian Ambassador to Tel Aviv

TA021316 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, has said that Egypt will not return its ambassador to Tel Aviv until Israel withdraws from Lebanon. In a talk with our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a , Dr Ghali refused to react to the report that the prime minister asked the U.S. Congress to cut aid to Egypt until it returns its ambassador to Israel and restores bilateral relations to normal. [passage indistinct of recorded Ghali remarks in English]

I think that our attitude have not changed, Dr Ghali says. We will not send the embassador back to Tel Aviv,as President Mubarak said many times, before Israel withdraws from Lebanon. Egypt's basic attitude on this question has not changed.

Explosion at Israeli Bangkok Embassy 3 Dec

TA031711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] This afternoon, an explosive charge was thrown at the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. It was apparently a handgrenade. Nobody was hurt, but the explosion made a hole in the wall surrounding the embassy building. The Thailand police say that the handgrenade was thrown when the embassy guards were taking their noon break.

ALGERIA

Prime Minister's Visit to Tunisia Reviewed

LD030248 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, has concluded the working visit he paid to Tunisia today. He left the Tunisian capital this afternoon and was seen off by his Tunisian counterpart, Mohamed Mzali.

Brother Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani was received at Carthage Palace by the Tunisian president, Habib Bourguiba. During their meeting, they reviewed the positive development of Algerian-Tunisian cooperation and the question of implementing three joint companies along the border at fixed times.

The prime minister also took advantage of the occasion to brief the Tunisian president on the projects already being implemented by the two countries and on the fruitful results of bilateral cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Wasilah Bourguiba, the president's wife, by brother Qasdi Mirbah, minister of heavy industry and by Dris Guiga, Ismail Khalil, and Salih Ben Barakah, Tunisian ministers of interior, finance, and planning. Habib Bourguiba Jr, private adviser to the Tunisian president, and the two countries' ambassadors, Abdelghani Abdi and Hadi Bakkoush, were also present.

Official Receives Tunisian Defense Minister

LD050009 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Colonel Mustafa Ben Loucit, secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense, received the Tunisian minister of defense this morning. The visitor was accompanied by the secretary of state for foreign affairs and the Tunisian ambassador to Algeria. Their talks were devoted to a discussion of issues of mutual interest.

Earlier, Mrs Chadli Bendjedid greeted Mrs Wassilah Bourguiba at the airport. The latter paid a 1-day visit to our capital, where she was received by President Chadli Bendjedid. This morning, Mrs Bourguiba visited the Palestinian fighters released from the al-Ansar camp and other Zionist prisons.

Upper Voltan Foreign Minister Arrives

LD041442 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Algiers, 04/12/83 (APS) — Upper Volta foreign minister arrived in Algiers in the afternoon at the head of a delegation comprising also commerce and industry minister.

The delegation will hold during the few day visit talks with Algerian leaders.

Mr Ali O'Bouzar secretary of state for foreign trade greeted the delegation at the airport.

LIBYA

Military Official Ends Visit to Hungary, Poland

LD021043 Tripoli JANA in English 0915 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 27, Dec 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Brigadier Mustafa al-Kharrubi chief-of-staff of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces ended his visit to the People's Republic of Hungary and the Socialist Republic of Poland and returned to Jamahiriyah last night with his accompanying delegation.

During his visit Brigadier Mustafa al-Kharrubi held a series of talks with a number of officials in both friendly countries related to the development of cooperation and friendship ties between Jamahiriyah and both Hungary and Poland.

In the Hungarian capital, Budapest, Brigadier al-Kharrubi, chief-of-staff of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces met with the Hungarian president of the Presidential Council and member of the Political Bureau, Pal Losonczi and with Ferenc Havasi, member of Political Bureau and the Political Bureau of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party. He also held meetings with the Hungarian minister of defence, his deputy and the chief-of-staff of the Hungarian Armed Forces during which discussions were held about bolstering cooperation in all fields between Jamahiriyah and Hungary. During his visit to Hungary Brigadier al-Kharrubi visited a number of Hungarian technical establishments and factories where he familiarized himself with the methods used in these establishments.

Later in Warsaw, Brigadier al-Kharrubi met with General Jaruzelski, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and delivered a verbal message to him from the leader of the revolution, in relation to the cooperation between the two friendly countries. Al-Kharrubi, also met with General Florian Siwicki, the minister of national defence, the deputy minister of defence and the chief of staff of Armed Forces and discussed with them the relations between the two countries and the means of bolstering them. Brigadier al-Kharrubi during his visit to the Polish Socialist Republic visited a number of arms production factories, and Polish establishments specialised in producing and developing military and technical equipment.

Economic Agreements Signed With Tunisia

LD022143 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, Safar 27, Dec 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The minutes of the meeting of the joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian economic affairs committee were signed yesterday evening in the framework of achieving economic and social unity between the two countries.

The minutes of the agreement included the following:

In the field of planning — coordination in planning programmes and exchange of experiments and experiences in the field of planning and preparation of annual budgets in industry.

The two sides showed readiness to establish joint industrial information as well as the development and exchange of raw material used in industry in both countries. The two sides also agreed to study industrial projects in shoe making, ready made clothes, weaving and some parts for refrigerators. They also agreed to study the possibilities of integration in the fields of heavy industries, energy and investments.

Both parties agreed to establish a joint Arab Tunisian-Libyan bank for development and external trade. It was also agreed to establish a bank to deal with non-residents as a subsidiary of joint Arab Tunisian-Libyan bank for development and external trade to be named north African international bank for agriculture.

The two sides also discussed future cooperation between their countries in the fields of water, land weathering and desertification. They also studied the establishment of joint schemes in the sphere of agriculture and trade.

The two sides reached a new trade and customs agreement, and in this aspect a joint technical committee was formed to discuss the unification of customs checkpoints.

Fawzi al-Shakshuki, the secretary of planning; and Ismail Khalil, the Tunisian minister of planning, signed the context of the agreement. Salih Mbarka, the Tunisian minister of finance, and the Libyan and the Tunisian general commissioners attended the signing ceremony.

MAURITANIA

Haydala Interviewed on 'Renewal,' Drought

PM021501 Brussels LE SOIR in French 26-27 Nov 83 p 3

[Interview with President Khouna Ould Haydala by Etienne Ugeux in Belgium — date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: What progress has been made toward "national renewal" following the destabilization attempts, and would you like to briefly specify its aim?

Answer: Mauritania is stable. This is due to the fact that the Mauritanian people identify with the guidelines established by the Military Committee for National Salvation. Our ambition is to manage the country's resources as efficiently as possible, to work for social justice, and to safeguard our independence and dignity. At the same time, we strive to hold out a fraternal and friendly hand to all the peoples of the world who love peace, freedom, and justice.

We think we have made considerable progress along that path since 10 July 1978, despite all sorts of difficulties, particularly the drought, which has become a real disaster. As a result, we have lost 80 percent of our livestock. The drought has also triggered a mass exodus from the rural areas. There are no longer any crops, and eating habits are affected by that, with detrimental effects on the health of the people. This year, the drought has been particularly bad — our livestock is threatened with total destruction and we are facing a very large grain shortage.

Question: How do you view the solution to the Polisario problem?

Answer: The Saharan problem is deadlocked once again, due to the failure to implement the 19th OAU summit resolution on the issue, which calls for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario. Moreover, that resolution has just been taken up by the United Nations. Unfortunately, one of the parties is refusing to implement it by not opening negotiations!

We see this situation as harmful to the continent's unity.

Question: How are your relations with Morocco, Algeria, and Libya?

Answer: Our relations with Algeria and Libya are good. Our relations with Morocco are experiencing some difficulties due to a failure to respect the agreement concluded in at-Ta'if under the auspices of the late King Khalid of Saudi Arabia. As far as we are concerned, we are in favor of establishing friendly and cooperative relations with all those who subscribe to the basic international principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states, and respect for their sovereignty, particularly in the case of fraternal countries like Morocco.

Question: Does the establishment of Islamic law still involve the use of corporal punishment? That has elicited some strong reactions in the world.

Answer: Each country in the world has its own legal system. In our country, the colonial system was in force. Therefore, we decided to restore our own values in our country, which is entirely Muslim. Islam has always been a factor of unity and solidarity in our country. Consequently, I advise you to undertake a thorough study of Islam. You will see that the Islamic Shari'ah is a merciful system of justice, concerned with human freedom and dignity.

Question: Does the Military Council for National Salvation intend to restore power to the civilians?

Answer: The national Armed Forces came to power because there was an emergency situation in our country. We wanted to end the unjust war which was undermining us, improve the economic situation, and set a democratic process in motion. After achieving the first objective, and making considerable progress toward the second, we wanted to entrust the third to a civilian government. That experiment proved disastrous. We were forced to bow to the evidence. We determined that the citizens must be carefully prepared for the new task of democracy. It was within that framework that we established a system for mass education throughout the country. The aim of this structure is to engender a collective awareness for the exercise of democracy. Once that preparatory action is completed, we will consider our mission to be accomplished and will return to the barracks.

Question: The economic situation?

Answer: It is difficult, as is the situation in all underdeveloped countries. This is particularly true in those countries which, like us, are victims of drought. However, Mauritania possesses many resources that have not yet been exploited. We are pinning great hopes on fishing, as well as on mineral exploitation.

MOROCCO

IAEA Agreement for Uranium Supplies Signed

LD031358 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Vienna, 3 Dec (MAP) — Morocco will be supplied with enriched uranium destined to be used as fuel by the reactor "Triga" recently purchased by the Moroccan Ministry of Energy and Mines.

The supply will be made under an agreement initialed here on Friday morning by the ambassador of Morocco to Vienna, Abderrahman Badou, the permanent representative of the United States in Vienna, Richard Williamson, and the acting director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Amaurizio Zifferero.

This agreement was concluded in line with the recommendation made by the governors' council which met in the Austrian capital last September.

During the signing ceremony, Mr Badou underlined that this agreement constitutes a step forward in the privileged relations existing between Morocco and the United States and between Morocco and the International Agency. He then explained that the purchase of the reactor "Triga" and the creation of a Moroccan national center for nuclear energy are part of Morocco's energy plan.

Mr Zifferro, on his part, affirmed the agency's willingness to provide Morocco with all necessary assistance.

SUDAN

At-Tayyib Briefed on Talks in U.S., France

EA042317 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president of the republic, met Major General Yusuf Hasan al-Hajj, assistant minister of defense, this afternoon for a briefing on the results of the talks held by the Sudanese military delegation which accompanied President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri on his recent tour of France, the United States, and Italy.

After the meeting, the assistant minister of defense said in a press statement that the delegation held important talks with the French minister of defense. He also noted that other discussions — dealing with Sudan's military needs — were held in the U.S. Pentagon. His excellency added that the talks were successful and achieved their objectives.

It is worth noting that Maj Gen Yusuf Hasan al-Hajj has returned to France to conclude his talks with the French Defense Ministry.

TUNISIA

Algerian Prime Minister Arrives 2 December

LD021045 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Algerian Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani arrived in Tunis at 0950 today. He was welcomed by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

Mzali on Arab Summit, Palestinians, Egypt

GF030638 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Ad-Dammam, 3 Dec (WAKH) — Tunisia has called for an earlier convocation of the Riyadh summit, affirming the need to prepare for that summit in order to ensure its success.

In a statement published in today's issue of the Saudi newspaper *AL-YAWM*, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali said: I hope the date for the Riyadh summit will be set as soon as possible, provided that the minimum conditions for its success are met.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Mzali said: The problem is not one of conflict among the Palestinians, but stems from the fact that there are Arab parties interfering in Palestinian affairs. I appeal to God to generate a moral awakening among the Arab leadership, an awakening that will allow them to surmount these difficulties.

Referring to conditions in Lebanon, the Tunisian prime minister said: The Lebanese civil war is the real tragedy, and it is a result of the Palestinian cause, which has been difficult to resolve. If we coordinate our efforts to settle the Palestinian question, Lebanon will emerge from this tragedy.

On Egypt's return to the Arab fold, Mzali said: Egypt must return to the Arabs, and this return should be based on principles agreeable to the Arabs. He noted that the situation is currently negative, but added that there should be agreement on new principles and a review of the Baghdad summit resolutions on this issue.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Receives Message From Chad's Habre

EA041516 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council and COPWE chairman, commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, and current chairman of the OAU, today received a message from President Hissein Habre of Chad. Mr Idriss Miskine, Chadian minister of foreign affairs, delivered the message at a ceremony held at the Great Palace. Comrade Tibebu Bekele, permanent representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was present at the ceremony.

Postponement of WSLF General Congress Announced

EA041534 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Front in Somali to Western Somali 1200 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] A statement by the Bureau of Information of the Central Committee of the Western Liberation Front, WSLF, states that on 1 December the WSLF-Central Committee agreed to postpone the fourth WSLF general congress until 1 January 1985. The statement adds that although in line with the constitution, the congress was scheduled to be held on 1 January 1984, the Central Committee decided to postpone the congress after having studied the overall situation of the struggle and the difficult position it faces in its attempt to free our land from the grip of black colonialist Abyssinia and its backers.

SOMALIA

Radio Halgan: Government To Reduce Missions

EA040121 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] It has been reported that the dictator regime of General Siad Barre plans to reduce its foreign missions. Informed sources say that the missions to be closed are in Africa, Asia, and Europe — mostly in east and central Africa, including those in Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, and Mozambique. The four embassies have already started to wind up matters. Reports from Mogadishu say that the decision to close some of the missions was caused by the economic crisis facing Somalia. Most of the missions have huge debts which the regime has been unable to settle up to now.

UGANDA

Prime Minister, Delegation Depart for UK Visit

EA041538 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Otema Alimadi with a high-powered delegation has left for London for a 1-week official visit to Britain. The delegation included the deputy minister of finance, Mr Henry Makmot; the acting Uganda high commissioner to Britain, Mr (Nathan Odoy); the acting commissioner for rehabilitation, Mr (Kasuli); and the director of Western Europe in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Lamek Akongo. While in Britain, the delegation will hold talks with the British secretary of state and other government officials. The talks are expected to center on Uganda's revised recovery program and British Government economic aid to Uganda.

Prime Minister Stresses Human Rights Commitment

EA022158 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Otema Alimadi has stressed the government's commitment to ensure human rights for all Ugandans. The prime minister said this when receiving the EEC director, Africa, Mr (Livi Giovanni), at his office in Kampala. Mr Otema Alimadi observed that since dissidents who resorted to armed violence to frustrate government efforts have been liquidated, the major problem now facing the government is the resettlement of the displaced persons. The main problem in this exercise of resettling displaced persons, Mr Otema Alimadi said, is the rehabilitation of the infrastructure ruined during the days of insecurity so that relief supplies and other services can be taken to the people. The government, he said, needs more transport to facilitate relief supply and the resettlement exercise. Mr Otema Alimadi said the resettlement program is going to be undertaken systematically with all the necessary precautions to ensure that those who returned to their homes are safe and are immediately provided with agricultural inputs and seeds to start producing their own food. The government, said the prime minister, is committed to promoting regional cooperation and would welcome any assistance from the EEC to such regional cooperation in which Uganda is a member. He thanked the EEC for all the assistance it has given to Uganda since liberation.

The EEC director disclosed that a fact-finding team from the EEC would soon come to Uganda to identify the areas where the community can assist in the rehabilitation of the tea industry. He said the EEC will be willing to assist African countries to consolidate regional cooperation for regional self-reliance. The meeting was attended by the permanent secretary in the prime minister's office, Mr Francis Ayume, and the chief relief administrator, Mr (Bill Kirkam).

Army Chief of Staff Killed in Helicopter Crash

EA031515 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] His excellency the vice president and minister of defense, Mr Paulo Muwanga, announces with deepest sorrow on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uganda and to the whole nation the most untimely death of the chief of staff of the UNLA [Uganda National Liberation Army], Major General Oyite Ojok, which occurred in a helicopter accident at 2015 last evening. Five other officers of the UNLA and three other persons died in the accident.

Meanwhile, the minister of internal affairs, Dr Luwuliza Kirunda, has issued a preliminary report on the helicopter accident in which the chief of staff and eight other passengers died. The chief of staff left Kampala yesterday, Friday, 2 December 1983, at 1200 to visit troops. After the visit the chief of staff decided to come back to Kampala at about 2000. His helicopter stopped at Kasozi detachment for refuelling. The helicopter then took off from Kasozi. Seconds later officers and men who had seen off the chief of staff and his entourage noticed that the helicopter appeared to be out of control. Immediately after this the helicopter nosedived and crashed to the ground and started burning. The accident happened within the encampment of UNLA troops. Any claim by the bandits that they shot down the plane is without foundation.

The prime minister, the commander of defense forces, and ministers have visited the scene of the accident. In addition to the chief of staff there were five other UNLA officers, one UNLA staff photographer, one helicopter technician, and one UNLA soldier. Two of the officers who witnessed the incident drove to Kampala to report the sad news to the vice president and minister of defense.

CAMEROON

Election Set for 14 January; Biya Nominated

AB021920 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Cameroonians will go to the polls on January 14 to elect a president. A presidential decree issued today said polling will open at 0800 and close at 1800 throughout the national territory. Meanwhile, the president of the Cameroon National Union party and head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya, has been nominated as the party candidate for the January 14 presidential election. The party Central Committee nomination followed the head of state's declared intention to call all the elections.

Biya Message Urges Students To Resume Classes

AB030800 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 3 Dec 83

[President Paul Biya 2 December message to striking students in Yaounde — processed from English translation]

[Text] To facilitate the equal access for all Cameroonians into institutions of higher learning particularly in the scientific field and to reinforce national unity, a study has begun in the Ministry of National Education. This study has prompted reaction in some English-speaking students. Informed of the problem, the head of state has asked that a study commission comprising English-speaking and French-speaking academic officials be set up. The president of the republic, therefore, asks those English-speaking students on strike to resume classes. It is their duty. It is also in their interests.

Bishop, Priest Slain in Mbalmayo Diocese

AB030845 Paris AFP in French 0805 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Yaounde, 3 Dec (AFP) — A Cameroonian bishop, Jean Kounou, and a Cameroonian priest, Father Materne Bikoa, were assassinated in the night of 29 November in the Diocese of Mbalmayo, the daily *CAMEROON TRIBUNE* announced on Friday. This double murder was committed inside the Mbalmayo Diocese itself under horrible circumstances: According to the newspaper, the heads of the two victims were smashed and their eyes were put out.

These murders, the motives for which are not yet known, occur at a time when the crime wave in the country is worrying authorities. Repressive measures have been taken by the Cameroonian authorities to fight this fresh outbreak of crime, which is unprecedented in the country.

CPC Delegation Arrives in Yaounde on 10-Day Visit

AB021214 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] A CPC delegation arrived in Yaounde yesterday evening and was welcomed by the administrative secretary of the Cameroonian National Union [UNC] Central Committee. It will stay in Cameroon for 10 days. The delegation was invited by the UNC Central Committee.

The Chinese will hold talks with Cameroonian authorities and will visit the Littoral, Northern, Central, Southeast, Northeast and Western Provinces. They will visit several economic and industrial installations in our country, especially the Lagbe Dam which together with the Yaounde Congress Palace symbolize Chinese works in Cameroon. The leader of the Chinese delegation, Jiang Guanghua, [deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee] disclosed the purpose of his visit to our country to Jean-Marie Etoundi:

[Begin recording in Mandarin fading into French translation] I am glad to have the opportunity to accept the very friendly invitation of the UNC to pay a friendly visit here to your beautiful country in my capacity as a member of the friendly CPC delegation. First of all I would like to express our sincere thanks to the UNC and at the same time express our best wishes and fraternal greetings to the people of Cameroon. We stress that since national independence, the Cameroonian people have achieved great success in national life and at this time we are happy to have the opportunity to be witness to the great achievements accomplished by the Cameroonian people. I am convinced that with this visit and with the contacts we will make during our stay, mutual confidence and the exchange of views and experiences will certainly be strengthened and facilitated. Finally I would like to express my best wishes to the Cameroonian people, who under the leadership of your president, His Excellency Paul Biya, and the UNC will achieve more successes in matters of state sovereignty, the maintenance of national independence, and economic development efforts, as well as build a peaceful Cameroon and a very powerful country. [end recording]

CHAD

Group Claims Responsibility for Embassy Attack

AB031400 Paris AFP in French 1231 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, 3 Dec (AFP) — In a communique reaching Lagos on Friday, a movement calling itself the "Organization for the Liberation of Chad From Imperialism and Fascism" (OLTIF) claimed responsibility for an attack that was allegedly carried out against the Zairian Embassy in Ndjamena on 28 November.

In the communique dated 29 November from Ligna (Chad) and signed by Tahir Said, who is reportedly the secretary general of the new movement opposed to Mr Habre's government, the organization specifies that the attack left many people injured and claimed considerable material damage. But it notes that an accurate assessment of the damage will be announced later.

The OLTIF announced its existence for the first time on 30 October 1983 when it claimed responsibility for three attacks (two in bars and one at the Gredia transmitter) which the press did not report.

The movement says it is "fighting for the liberation of Chad, which is now under imperialist occupation through Hissein

Habre, the lackey of imperialism." It points out that its objective is the liberation of Chad and the establishment of a democratic society after general elections.

The organization is said to have been created in June 1982 after the elements of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government pulled out of the Chadian capital. Its operations are reported to cover "the entire territory of the Republic of Chad."

CONGO

Joint Bulgarian Commission Meeting Ends 2 Dec

AB031010 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The sixth Congolese-Bulgarian joint commission ended its deliberations early this evening in Brazzaville. Present at the closing session were members of the (?Executive Bureau) and [words indistinct] the vice chairman of the Central Council of the Bulgarian Agroindustrial Union.

The deliberations, which lasted 4 days, aimed at increasing Bulgarian assistance beyond the sectors of agriculture and animal husbandry in which Bulgaria is now involved. The outcome of the deliberations was satisfactory as they have paved the way for the development of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the fields of finance, economy, politics, culture, science, and technology, as the final communique indicates.

The two delegations [words indistinct] the various issues on the agenda. These issues are:

I. Financial, economic, and commercial matters:

I.1 Cooperation in the field of forestry and water resources;
I.2 Cooperation in the field of energy;
I.3 Construction of a tourist village;
I.4 Public works and town planning;
I.5 Trade;
I.6 Agriculture and animal husbandry;
I.7 Cooperation in the field of industry;
I.8 Scientific cooperation.

II. Legal, sociocultural, scientific, and technical affairs:

II.1 National education;
II.2 Health and social affairs;
II.3 Scientific cooperation;
II.4 Information;
II.5 Legal framework.

The seventh session of the joint commission will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1984 at a date to be fixed through diplomatic channels.

GABON

Government Ban on Reporting French News Lifted

AB040615 Paris AFP in English 0353 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Libreville, Dec 4 (AFP) -- A ban on reporting French news imposed by the Gabonese authorities six weeks ago has been lifted, Information Minister Zaccharie Mybott said here Saturday night.

The ban was in protest at publicity given in France to a critical book about Franco-Gabonese relations. *African Affairs* by French journalist Pierre Pean directly implicated President Omar Bongo in alleged scandals. The government here complained bitterly the book was part of "destabilizing and subversive maneouvres" aimed at bringing down Mr Bongo's regime. It immediately forbade the local media from reporting French news. One result was that the killing of French troops in Lebanon in a suicide attack was completely ignored, while full coverage was given to the similar slaying of American Marines in Beirut the same day.

Paris despatched two special envoys from President Francois Mitterrand in November to try to patch up the serious strain in Franco-Gabonese relations, which have traditionally been very close. Minister Mybott said last night that Mr Bongo had been invited to pay an official call on Mr Mitterrand and had agreed in principle to do so.

ZAIRE

Mobutu To Visit Kenya, Portugal in December

AB040730 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Kinshasa, Nov 3 (AFP) — Zairean head of state Mobutu Sese Seko will visit Kenya on December 10 and Portugal on December 14, Information Minister Sakombi Inongo said here today after the government's weekly cabinet meeting.

The crown prince and princess of Japan will visit Zaire in February, Mr. Inongo said.

The government decided today to drop restrictions on certain imports, and prices for meat, salt-water fish and sea salt are expected to drop, Mr. Inongo said.

Opposition Head Calls for Meeting With Leaders

AB021935 Paris AFP in French 1635 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Brussels, 2 Dec (AFP) — Nguza Karl I Bond, leader of the "Congolese Front for the Restoration of Democracy" which groups opponents to Mobutu's regime, has called for a "meeting between Zairian leaders and the opposition at home and abroad in order to discuss a new charter and the establishment of a democratic regime in Zaire."

On Wednesday in a letter sent to countries friendly to Zaire, the former Zairian prime minister in exile in Brussels appealed to the heads of state and government of the United States, Canada, France, Belgium, Great Britain, FRG, and Italy to support the proposal.

"It is, in my opinion, a positive political approach which will enable heads of state and government of friendly countries to play an important role," the former Zairian leader told AFP.

"Mobutu cannot continue to treat the country like his private property," he said.

He further challenged the recent statements by President Mobutu who asserted that "there are no political prisoners in Zaire." "Members of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress [UNDPS] — an opposition party founded by 13 former parliamentarians sentenced in 1982 for subversion — are still in prison," he asserted.

GAMBIA

Appeals Court Confirms Death Sentences

AB021940 Paris AFP in French 1407 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Banjul, 2 Dec (AFP) — The Gambian Court of Appeals has confirmed six death sentences handed down by the Banjul tribunal against Gambians involved in the abortive coup of 30 July 1981. In all, the court has confirmed 27 out of the 32 death sentences handed down. Three of the culprits were acquitted, while two others died in prison from illness.

GHANA

Rawlings Receives Newly Appointed Envoys

AB022221 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Four newly appointed envoys this afternoon called on the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, to receive their letter of credence. They are Mr John (K. Tetegah), who goes to the USSR as Ghana's ambassador, Lieutenant Colonel (Chumafor) retired, ambassador to Yugoslavia, Mr Kwame Sara Mensah, high commissioner to India, and Mr Tete Tewiah, charge d'affaires of Ghana's Embassy in (?Bulgaria).

In his address, the chairman said it is my pleasure during this brief ceremony to give you your letters of accreditation as ambassadors to the countries that you are going to as representatives of Ghana. I believe that you have over these few days had an introduction to your new role as ambassadors. But I would like to make a few comments on the tasks that face you as ambassadors of the revolutionary government and the situation in our embassies abroad. I am sorry that I have to speak to you very bluntly, but these facts must be brought out in the open so that we can correct our mistakes and shortcomings. It has become simply clear to us that only a handful of our ambassadors serving abroad made any impact in the countries that they have been accredited to. For most of them, life as ambassadors has become a merry round of cocktail parties to the total neglect of the essence of their mission of establishing good relations with their host governments as well as looking after the interests of our country.

I even had reports of some of our ambassadors making negative and hostile comments about the revolutionary process. If any of the ambassadors appointed by the previous administration who has been retained by the PNDC feels he cannot serve the interest of the revolution, the only reasonable thing for him to do is to resign. Flight Lt Rawlings assured the newly appointed envoys of the support of the PNDC in their efforts to cut down waste and ensure discipline in their missions. The PNDC has also announced the appointment of Dr (Kenny Amodor) as ambassador to Upper Volta. Dr (Amodor) has already assumed duty in Ouagadougou.

PNDC Announces Under Secretaries Appointed

AB022210 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has announced the appointments of three under secretaries. They are Mr Kokwu Totogbeyi Kwatchi, Ministry of Information, and Mr Kwame Aklotchi and Amel Akpete, for the Ministry of Science, Industry, and Technology. The appointments take immediate effect.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Senegal's Diouf Arrives for 'Official' Visit

AB030830 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] President Abdou Diouf arrived in Guinea-Bissau this morning for an official visit. He was welcomed on arrival by President Joao Bernardo Vieira, head of state of Guinea-Bissau and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, who was surrounded by members of the council and the diplomatic corps. After inspecting the honor guard, the Senegalese head of state greeted the Senegalese nationals present.

In a statement made at the airport, President Abdou Diouf began by expressing his thanks to his brother and friend President Nino. He then added that he making this working visit at the invitation of his Guinean counterpart. This invitation, which he readily accepted, is evidence of both the great friendship which exists between Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, and also of the very close ties which link the two peoples — a reflection of the fraternal relations between their two heads of state. President Abdou Diouf added that his visit is aimed at reaffirming, in the name of Senegal, the solidarity, fraternity, and the indestructible friendship between the peoples of Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. A second objective of his trip is to express the Senegalese Government's political will to work with its Guinean counterpart in establishing exemplary bilateral cooperation.

From the airport, the two heads of state drove to Bissau, a distance of some 10 kms. The people turned out to give them a rousing welcome throughout their journey to the Presidential Palace. President Abdou Diouf greeted the crowd from the balcony of the palace in response to their warm welcome.

IVORY COAST

Officials Refuse Comment on Bokassa Departure

AB050850 Paris AFP in French 0723 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Abidjan, 5 Dec (AFP) — Ivorian authorities in Abidjan refused to comment Sunday night on the departure of Jean-Bedel Bokassa, former emperor of the CAR, for Paris following a 4-year stay in the Ivory Coast. It was confirmed in Abidjan that the former emperor was aboard an "Air Afrique" flight for the

French capital at 0900 GMT on Sunday morning. He was accompanied by 14 of his children who were living with him in the Ivory Coast.

Reliable sources in Abidjan did note, however, that Mr Bokassa had expressed his desire to leave the Ivory Coast over the past few days. These sources indicated that the former emperor made several outbursts during his 4-year stay and had been called to order on a number of occasions for his untimely statements to the press.

"If he wants to go, he should go." This seems to be the opinion prevailing in Ivorian Government circles, which believe that the Ivory Coast has more important worries than this issue.

LIBERIA

Defense Minister Asks Sierra Leonians To Leave

AB021930 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of national defense has strongly advised all Sierra Leoneans claiming to be refugees living on the Liberian-Sierra Leonean border to return to their respective towns and villages in Sierra Leone. A special announcement from the Ministry of Defense signed by Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Henry Dunbar, said the situation in the [name indistinct] district has returned to normal with the Sierra Leonean Army in full control.

The announcement added that it was in the interest of those Sierra Leoneans claiming to be refugees to return to their respective towns. He called on all Sierra Leonean refugees still living on the Liberian border to cooperate and depart immediately. The announcement further warned that anyone harboring Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia or assisting them to cross into the country illegally will be doing so against the law of the country and thus bear the full penalty of the law.

The minister of defense views this matter with utmost importance and requests the cooperation of all parties concerned, the announcement concluded.

Major Coup Figure Reveals More on Plot

AB030805 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Mr Joseph Cooper, a major figure in the coup plot, said in Monrovia today that the raid on the Liberian-American-Swedish Minerals Company [Lamco] was a prelude to overthrow the Liberian Government which Samuel Dokie and his associates were determined to carry out even at their peril. Mr Cooper, a retired captain from the Pan-Protection Force in Yekepa, told newsmen at the (?National Security Agency) office in Monrovia that Samuel Dokie had told the former commanding general, Thomas J. Quiwonkpa, that he and Dokie had to put up the show at Lamco. According to Mr Cooper's confession of his involvement with Dokie in the plot, Dokie had told the former commanding general that the Lamco showroom was necessary because the government had not treated the Nimba citizens fairly since many officials from Nimba had been dismissed from the government.

The retired captain said that he had been taken to meetings by one Augustus Bright and as a taxi owner, he was chartered to drive those involved in the killing at Lamco around the area. He said he was paid $75 in advance to purchase gas. Mr Cooper said he was threatened that if he made any attempt to run or leak out any of their secrets in regard to the plot, they would get rid of him. He was also advised not to run away after receiving the $75. Mr Cooper said he stayed on with the group when he heard the former commanding general say in an encouraging tone to Dokie to put the bank under their control.

Earlier in a revelation, Mr Cooper said he had been threatened when the late General Sing was shot within the confines of the [name indistinct] area. Mr Cooper alleged that the late general had remarked before his death that: We are not being fairly treated and I am going to tell the former commanding general for us to stage a coup. This he said were the words of Gen Sing while being transported to meet Gen Quiwonkpa. Giving further details of the incident in Nimba, Mr Cooper said he was introduced to the commander of the Nimba detachmnet, Cooper Thiar, who later told him that two officers were prepared and ready to join them. The officers, he claimed, were vigorous participants in the shooting at Lamco along with others who took the lives of five people on Sunday, 20 November.

Earlier today, it was reported that one of the 11 persons wanted by the Defense Ministry in connection with the plot had been arrested. He is Captain Allan Davies, who surrendered to the Joint Security in Nimba County on Tuesday.

NIGER

Kountche Departs for Official Visit to Egypt

AB031310 Paris AFP in English 1145 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Niamey, Dec 3 (AFP) — President General Seyni Kountche of Niger and his wife Mitou left here today for an official visit to Egypt. Travelling with the couple to Cairo were the deputy head of staff of the Armed Forces, Toumba Boubacar, Information Minister Daouada Diallo, Justice Minister Allele Habibou and the head of staff of the Supreme Military Council, Sani Bako.

NIGERIA

Shagari Reaffirms Commitment on Chad, Sahara

AB021915 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Nigeria has reaffirmed her commitment to finding a lasting solution to the conflict in Chad and Western Sahara. President Shehu Shagari made the pledge today at State House, Ribadu Road, Lagos, while receiving a delegation from the chairman of the Organization of African Unity, Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia. President Shagari called for a roundtable conference featuring the factional forces in Chad and Western Sahara. He again offered to hold such a discussion aimed at ending hostilities in Chad.

In a message to the president, the OAU chairman commended Nigeria's efforts to restore peace in the two areas of conflict. The OAU delegation led by the Ethiopian minister of foreign affairs, Mr Goshu Wolde, also had [as heard] the acting secretary general of the OAU, Peter Onu.

Former Head of State Gowon Arrives for Visit

AB051220 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, Dec 5 (AFP) — Former Nigerian Head of State General Yakubu Gowon arrived here today for a visit after more than eight years of exile in Britain.

General Gowon, who took power after a military coup in 1966 and was ousted in similar fashion in 1975, told journalists that he was pleased to be back. He confirmed statements by friends that he had no intention of becoming involved in politics.

Scarcely two hours after his arrival he went to the Presidential Palace to meet President Shehu Shagari, Nigeria's first civilian head of state since the military handed over power in 1979.

General Gowon said this first visit to Nigeria since his fall would be very short. He would be visiting three states, Lagos, Plateau, where he was born, and Kaduna, where he spent most of his youth.

Audu Named Nigerian Representative to UN

AB021227 Paris AFP in French 1121 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Lagos, 2 Dec (AFP) — On Thursday, the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee approved the appointments of Prof Ishaya Audu, the former minister of external affairs, as Nigeria's permanent representative at the United Nations, and of Kingsley Ozumba Mbadiwe as ambassador extraordinary. The appointments were proposed by President Shagari.

In New York, Prof Audu will succeed Yusuf Maitama Sule, who is now minister of national orientation in the new cabinet.

Mr Mbadiwe, an experienced politician from eastern Nigeria who will be in charge of special missions at the presidency, was previously the president's special adviser in charge of relations with the National Assembly.

ANGOLA

ANGOP Notes UN General Assembly Vote on Namibia

AB022228 Luanda ANGOP in French 1705 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Luanda, 2 Dec (ANGOP) — The UN General Assembly has condemned the maneuvers of the United States and South Africa to link the independence of Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. This was contained in one of the five resolutions voted on yesterday in New York by this body of the United Nations following its debate on Namibia. This UN body, which in another resolution deplored three of its member-states' blocking the adoption of efficient measures against South Africa, requested the Security Council to take measures aimed at the total isolation of South Africa by governments as well as by private organizations.

The UN General Assembly also approved two resolutions concerning financing the Security Council's program of action for Namibia and the organization by member-countries, involving a campaign to collect at least $1 million for Namibia. Strongly condemning South Africa for blocking Namibian independence, the General Assembly asked Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to ensure the cooperation of the UN Public Information Department to inform the public about the situation in Namibia. This cooperation should also include that of the Western countries, in particular the United States, Israel, and the Pretoria regime.

FAPLA Forces in Huila Kill 274 UNITA Members

MB030708 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] UNITA counterrevolutionaries continue to suffer heavy defeats by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], which in recent days annihilated another 274 bandits and captured 180 others in Huila Province. During operations in that province FAPLA freed over 11,000 civilians and recovered the 10,000 head of cattle the puppets intended to take with them to Namibia, which is illegally occupied by the racist South African regime. The representative of the Ministry of State Security in Huila Province told ANGOP that the plans of destabilization orchestrated by South Africa and carried out by UNITA are being met in that province by a prompt response by FAPLA. He also said that during this year vast cleanup and follow-up operations have been carried out in Huila against the bandits and some networks of saboteurs acting in that region.

FALA Communique Claims Capture of Andulo

MB041225 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Unattributed communique — date not given]

[Text] Comrades, compatriots, and listeners of the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel: Within the framework of its general offensive against the Russians, Cubans, and their renegades — the chieftains of the MPLA — at about 0500 on 26 November 1983 the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] launched an assault against the town of Andulo, in the central Province of Bie. The town was captured and FALA forces took full control of it. The enemy in that town comprised a brigade of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] and a Cuban brigade. The enemy suffered 40 dead, including members of FAPLA, Cubans, and Portuguese mercenaries. Our forces captured 2 Portuguese citizens with their families and 18 members of FAPLA, including an operations officer, First Lieutenant Simao Eduardo, as well as (Antonio Sacupa), (Florindo Muconda), Second Lieutenant Rodrigues Afonso, and technician Eduardo dos Santos.

A large quantity of war materiel was also seized, including 50 AKM's, 20 SM's, 3 81-mm mortars, 1 75-mm cannon, 1 14.5-mm anti-aircraft gun, 1 60-mm mortar, 3 RPG-7's, a number of boxes of ammunition of assorted calibers, a number of assorted shells, and a large quantity of medicine, which is now being distributed to the 35,000 civilians in the town. Our forces also found a warehouse with a large quantity of war materiel that is now under our control. A total of two power stations, a dam, and a water tank were destroyed. One MI-8 helicopter with registration No H-21S found abandoned at the runway was burned. Our forces also burned 10 vehicles, in particular 3 (Ipan) vehicles, 4 Land Rovers with [words indistinct] and 2 Star vehicles. Also burned by our forces were 1 BTR and 10 motorcycles.

Comrades, compatriots, and listeners of the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel: FALA is carrying out in full the guidelines of its commander in chief, General Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, and is inflicting heavy blows on Russians, Cubans, and their renegades, the chieftains of the MPLA. The oppressed people of Angola congratulate their best sons, the glorious FALA, for yet another resounding victory in Andulo. Forward glorious FALA! Forward in the general offensive against Russians, Cubans, and their renegades, the chieftains of the MPLA!

The struggle triumphs and united around Comrade President Dr Savimbi we will win!

BOTSWANA

President Discusses PRC Visit, Commonwealth Talks

MB021608 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, held a press conference this morning at which he commented on a number of international issues related to his visit to China and participation in the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in New Delhi, India. Responding to a question from one of the journalists, Dr Masire reiterated his observation after the 1980 visit to China, that he was impressed by the serious way in which the Government of China was applying itself to the various problems facing them. Singling out the problems of feeding China's billion people, the state responsibility to develop industry, to modernize some of their ways of doing things, and providing incentives of life, President Masire said the Chinese were tackling these problems in a very earnest manner, and they were succeeding.

On being questioned about the Commonwealth meeting, President Masire said, contrary to speculations by the press that the meeting could be divided on several thorny issues, the conference was a success. He said those areas speculated to have been the possible sources of conflict turned out to be not as devisive as the press had thought. Commenting on the press statements that Britain had criticized American linkage of the Cuban withdrawal from Angola to Namibian independence settlement talks, and further that the United Kingdom had said a stalemate had been reached by the Western Contact Group on Namibia, Dr Masire said there was nothing new in what Britain said. He said other members of the Contact Group, of which Britain is a member, had privately and publicly said it was not fair to link Namibian independence to the Cuban presence in Angola. President Masire, however, pointed out that it was not a responsible way to behave for big nations such as the Western Contact Group conducting a serious assignment such as the Namibian independence settlement for them to say they had reached a stalemate. Dr Masire said it was the responsibility of the Western Contact Group to find out why they had reached a stalemate and to try to remove the impediments before going ahead.

Answering another question, President Masire said there was nothing new in press reports quoting Zimbabwe saying South Africa must be removed from Namibia militarily. Dr Masire said Zimbabwe was one of those states which fear that force should be used to get South Africa out of Namibia.

Responding to a question on the recent invasion of Grenada by the United States, President Masire said, while he understood arguments in support of foreign intervention, in an issue of this nature, chaos would set in if states were to invade each other under the pretext of removing undesirable leaders. He said on being questioned further that it was a question of ample evidence to prove a point for foreign intervention. He said in most cases this evidence was not available. He also said that some of the Caribbean states still feel that in supporting the United States invasion, they acted correctly.

President Masire and his entourage arrived in Botswana on Wednesday.

MADAGASCAR

Antananarivo Reports on Soviet Delegation's Visit

MB021509 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] A delegation of Soviet trade unionists, journalists, and athletes is currently visiting Madagascar. The trade unionists are led by Mr (Yuriy Boris Papalov). They will attend the national seminar of the [words indistinct] trade union, which is affiliated with the Congress Party for Malagasy Independence-Democratic Committee for the Malagasy Socialist Revolution at Fianarantsoa, which conclude its proceedings on 6 December. The Soviet trade unionists will meet the press this morning at the [words indistinct] trade union headquarters at (Kadifuntsoa) at 0900.

Our fellow journalists (Medi Yaguvine) and (Mikhail Yonskiy) are part of the delegation. They have already reported on the good impressions of their compatriots regarding Madagascar, which they generously describe as a (?green land). Their visit is the third one by Soviet journalists to Madagascar. The athletes in the delegation include the Moldavian (Mystro) soccer team, which will play against three of our soccer teams at Fianarantsoa, Toamasina, and Antananarivo. The head of the team said that the (Mystro) soccer team is one of the best five Soviet teams and that professionalism was [words indistinct] in the USSR and that sports is promoted in all sectors of activity.

MALAWI

President Banda Returns From Commonwealth Summit

MB040755 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] His excellency the life president, Ngwazi [teacher] Dr Kamuzu Banda, has described the recent Commonwealth leaders' conference which ended in New Delhi last Tuesday as successful, in that there was no friction during the deliberations. The life president was speaking in Blantyre yesterday on his return from New Delhi. Addressing thousands and thousands of people who gathered to welcome him, the life president said although the leaders differed on issues such as the political situation in Grenada and Namibia, they managed to agree on how best the problems of the two countries could be solved. His excellency the life president commented on his stay in India, a country he described as great. The life president said his stay in that country had offered him an opportunity to learn more about the Indian history and culture. The life president said he was impressed with whatever he saw during his stay in India, adding that he was particularly happy to learn and see that India and Malawi have many things in common. He said Indians, just like Malawians, have great respect for mothers and older people, and that the traditional dances of the two countries are similar. On the whole, the ngwazi said, he and his party have come back home better educated about India than before.

MOZAMBIQUE

Soviet Warships on 'Working Visit' to Maputo

MB040749 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Citing sources in the Ministry of National Defense, today's edition of the newspaper *NOTICIAS* says that a fleet of four Soviet warships has arrived in our country on a working visit. The fleet, which comprises an antisubmarine ship, an aircraft carrier, a landing vessel, and a tanker, is in Mozambique at the invitation of our country's government. The antisubmarine ship anchored at Maputo port yesterday, joining the tanker that arrived last Thursday. The remaining ships are presently off the coast at Inhaca Island in Mozambique waters. The Soviet warships will be in Mozambique for a period of 8 days, during which they will be visited by workers, students, and the people in general.

SOUTH AFRICA

Five Held in Alleged Seychelles Coup Plot

Law Minister Issues Statement

MB021630 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The South African minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has announced in Pretoria that five people are being held for questioning in connection with an alleged attempt to recruit mercenaries to overthrow the Government of Seychelles. Mr le Grange says in a statement that his government takes a serious view of the reported plan and is not prepared to allow any such developments to take place in South Africa.

Some of those in detention are citizens of Britain and Zimbabwe, and those who do not hold residence permits will be deported. They were allegedly acting on behalf of a British-based organization called Movement Pour la Resistance. A number of people are serving sentences in South African prisons for their part in an attempt to topple the government of President Albert Rene in November 1981. The attempt ended in a gunfight at the airport on the main island after which some of the mercenaries hijacked an Indian aircraft to get home.

Rene Agent Infiltrated

MB031254 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 3 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Seychelles President Albert Rene infiltrated a British private investigator into South Africa to successfully foil an attempted coup against his government. It was revealed last night that five men — three Britons and two Frenchmen — have been arrested by the South Africa Police in connection with the plot. They are being deported, the Minister of Police, Mr Louis le Grange, said last night. One Briton is a Zimbabwean citizen.

The arrests took place over the past ten days as a result of evidence handed to the police by Mr Kenneth Williamson, a 36-year-old private investigator who lives in Sussex, England.

Sources told the *RAND DAILY MAIL* last night that Mr Williamson had been specifically briefed by President Rene to obtain information about a suspected recruitment of mercenaries. He is understood to have met up with mercenaries living in South Africa, and infiltrated the group.

He then reported his findings to a South African undercover agent who in turn informed the police.

Mr Williamson left South Africa on a British Airways flight last night, bound for Nairobi. It is believed he may be enroute to the Seychelles to report to President Rene.

The undercover agent's name is known to the *RAND DAILY MAIL*. His wife told the *MAIL* last night that her husband was "expected home on Saturday".

The couple live in the exclusive Lone Hill area of Sandton.

Mr Williamson stayed at the Kyalami Ranch Hotel, outside Johannesburg, from November 26 to 28 before mysteriously disappearing.

In a statement, Mr Le Grange said the five men "have been detained for questioning by the South African Security Police".

The statement added: "The police are investigating an alleged attempted recruitment of persons presently resident in South Africa as mercenaries to assist in the planning and implementation of a coup d'etat against the Government of the Seychelles."

According to police information, the plan was instigated by people in Britain representing an organisation known as the Movement Pour la Resistance.

"It has been decided to immediately deport those foreigners who do not have residence permits," the police statement said.

The Minister added that the Government was "not prepared to allow any such developments to take place within this country".

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said the governments of Zimbabwe and Britain had been informed of the pending deportations.

The spokesman added that the Seychelles Government would be fully informed about the alleged plan.

A Zimbabwean government spokesman said he had heard of the arrest of "Zimbabweans", but he was sure they must be "Rhodesians".

He was not aware of any attempt to deport alleged coup plotters to Zimbabwe.

The *MAIL* was informed that a coup plot was afoot by early August, but that plans crashed when the necessary finances did not come through from allegedly London-based backers.

A source said: "In the first week of August, things were in the planning stage, but then it all fell through because the money wasn't right.

"When I heard something was in the wind again, it was only two weeks since those six men who had been held on the Seychelles since the 1981 coup attempt were returned to South Africa."

Referring to the organisers of the earlier attempt, the source said: "They're at it again — when one plot fails they move straight into the next."

The Seychelles Government reacted unofficially with "great surprise".

No official statement was expected before this morning, the *MAIL was told. President Rene was attending a dinner party* and could not be contacted.

SADF Involvement Denied

MB040458 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] South Africa is denying that a defense force official was involved in an alleged Seychelles coup plot. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Law and Order, (Leon Mollet), has denied reports that a high-ranking South African Defense Force [SADF] officer is among the five men being held by security police in connection with the coup plot investigation. The SAPA news agency reports that it is reliably understood that a former brigadier in the Rhodesian army is among those held, as well as a Zimbabwean who was at one stage a commandant in the South African Army for a short period.

Rene Charges Cited

MB050856 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Seychelles President Albert Rene says the South African Government was aware that a coup to oust him was being planned in South Africa. In an interview published in a Johannesburg morning newspaper, Rene claims that the Pretoria government also knew that he had been constantly aware of what was being plotted against him. Rene says he has information that the training of mercenaries to invade Seychelles and overthrow him and his government was taking place at a training camp some 50 km from Johannesburg. Rene expressed surprise that only five people had been arrested in connection with the alleged recruitment of mercenaries. He says apart from the five men arrested, a woman in South Africa was also, as he put it, very much involved, but he has declined to name her. South Africa had denied Rene's claims. Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange says his government would have acted earlier if it had had knowledge of the alleged coup plot. He says he is satisfied that the South African police acted immediately once they knew the situation. Le Grange asked why Rene had not informed South African authorities if he knew of the alleged plans.

STAR on 'Secret' Europe Meeting, Namibia Initiative

MB031222 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 2 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Bonn — At a secret meeting in Europe this week, top-level diplomats prepared the way for possible further meetings between the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, and the leaders of Angola and Mozambique.

The diplomats are understood to be at the heart of a major new initiative on Namibia. It is also designed to restore and strengthen dialogue between South Africa and its black neighbours.

The campaign could be taken a step further tomorrow when Mr Botha, who is touring Europe, leaves London for Italy, where he will meet the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

Sources in Lisbon, Bonn and London have confirmed that Mr Botha has had relatively recent contact with representatives of all the states in Southern Africa.

There are also signs that Mr Botha has had contact with more than one state behind the Iron Curtain.

Minister Notes Soviet 'Stranglehold' on Africa

MB030812 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The South African minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, says the Soviet Union has acquired a stranglehold on Africa under the guise of black nationalism. Speaking in Windhoek in South-West Africa/Namibia, Gen Malan said the Soviet Union's striving for domination as well as its need for raw materials ensured that South Africa remained the prime target. Control of southern Africa would bring about Soviet control of the whole of Africa south of the Sahara. In its expansionist drive, he said, the Soviet Union was employing surrogate forces such as the Cubans in Angola and political dissidents such as the SWAPO and the ANC. Gen Malan said that the firmly established Embassy of the Soviet Union in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare, was further proof of Soviet penetration in an African state. This penetration, which was urged by a policy of expansionism, was leading daily to party-political problems in these countries.

UDF Publicity Secretary Denies Links With ANC

MB040942 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] There are no links between the ANC and the United Democratic Front [UDF]. That is the reaction by UDF Publicity Secretary (Tera Likhota) to a statement of support for the UDF issued by the ANC. (Likhota) says while the UDF welcomes the support of the ANC, there are no links yet between the two organizations. He says this is because the ANC is banned and that the methods of the UDF are different to those of the ANC. The UDF, he says, is concerned about allegations by government officials that the UDF is a front for the ANC. (Likhota) says if the government has any evidence of such a link, it would have to take action against the UDF.

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Returns From New Delhi, Comments

MB021114 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 2 Dec 83 pp 1,24

[Text] The Prime Minister, Prince Bhekimpi, returned home yesterday after attending the Commonwealth Heads of State conference in New Delhi.

He said that the leaders had found much common ground and had agreed on many issues of concern. Chief among these were the matters of Namibian independence and the sheer aggression that the superpowers displaced.

He said that they had also discussed the setting up of a Commonwealth watchdog which would consider the rights of small countries open to aggression by a bigger power.

At the short press conference, which was attended by Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps, the Prime Minister said there was no antagonism among delegates.

"We carried out all discussions in an atmosphere of cordiality and I am pleased to say that in my point of view the conference was a tremendous success," he said.

"We agreed on most aspects of our discussions and were mainly concerned with the aggression and antagonistic attitudes that the Soviet Union and the United States displayed."

He said that the Grenada invasion had brought to light how this aggression endangered society.

He said that they had deliberated on the issue of Namibian independence as to exactly when and how this could happen.

The Commonwealth summit conference, which ended in New Delhi on Tuesday, was attended by the 42 heads of states which make up the Commonwealth.

A communique released in New Delhi after the conference said that the leaders had called for the implementation of the appropriate measures under the United Nations charter.

The leaders also reaffirmed their opposition to sporting contacts with South Africa. They further stated that sporting contacts with the republic of South Africa could not become genuine until apartheid was scrapped.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by a high-powered delegation which included the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini.

Former Opposition Party Leader Detained

MB040524 Mbabane THE SWAZI NEWS in English 3 Dec 83 p 1

[By Pat Jele]

[Text] Former political activist, Mr Africa Mhlanga, has been arrested and detained by security police.

The reason for Mr Mhlanga's detention has not been disclosed, but he is being held at Sidvokodvo police station.

Four plain clothes policemen arrived in Mr Mhlanga's office in a Bulembu garage and arrested him. Spokesman in the garage said the policemen were from Mbabane.

An eyewitness said that when the policemen approached Mr Mhlanga and informed him that he was under arrest for alleged political activities, he demanded a detention order as is required by law.

"When the policemen failed to produce an order, Mr Mhlanga protested and charged that they were arresting him illegally," one of his colleagues in the garage said.

Mr Mhlanga is a former assistant secretary general of the now defunct Ngwane National Liberatory Congress Party of Dr Ambrose Zwane. It was the official opposition party before political parties were banned in Swaziland.

He has been an active politician since the early sixties. In 1956, Mr Mhlanga travelled to Ghana to do a crash course in party organisation.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Says All Citizens Equal Under Government

MB050849 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says all people are equal under his government and should enjoy the same rights and privileges in independent Zimbabwe. Addressing a seminar of the ZANU-PF Mashonaland West Women's League in Kadomo yesterday, Comrade Mugabe said divisions on tribal, regional, or ethnic grounds are just as bad as discrimination against women. He pointed out that ZANU-PF regards all Zimbabweans as belonging to one family, which transcends tribal or ethnic differences. Comrade Mugabe warned that a divided Zimbabwe is vulnerable to its enemies.

The prime minister urged women to boost the membership of the party, and said men who prevent their wives from joining women's clubs and participating in party programs are oppressors of the worst kind. Comrade Mugabe revealed that the government is to set up shops which will buy handicrafts produced by Zimbabwean women and find export markets for them. He disclosed that a congress is to be held next year to elect national women leaders and called on the women's wing to formulate resolutions which will be discussed at the forthcoming congress. The prime minister also stressed the importance of choosing a committed leadership a point which was underscored by the president, Comrade Canaan Banana, when he addressed a fund raising dinner in Mutare.

Earlier, the prime minister planted a tree at Kadomo town council offices in Rumuka as part of the national tree planting day ceremonies. He was accompanied by serveral cabinet ministers, including the minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, and the minister of legal and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Eddison Zvogbo.

Muzorewa's Foreign Activities To Be Investigated

MB021824 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The government is carrying out investigations in some foreign countries about the activities there of the detained leader of United African National Council [UANC], Bishop Abel Ten dekayi Muzorewa. The minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, told the House of Assembly today that, should the investigations prove that the bishop was involved in wrongdoing, he will be charged. Comrade Munangagwa was replying to questions on behalf of the minister of home affairs, Comrade Herbert Ushewokunze. Comrade Munangagwa said it is not in the state's interest to say when the bishop would appear in court, because inquiries involved incidents which took place in other countries. However, the minister said, the bishop's detention will be subject to review by the Detentions Review Tribunal, and the government will abide by the tribunal's decisions. Bishop Muzorewa was arrested on 31 October in operation Chinyauada, which, Comrade Munangagwa said, was to check on subversive elements connected with racist South African bandits.

Government Statement Affirms Support for 'Arafat

MB031010 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] The government has condemned disruptive and reactionary forces sowing seeds of discontent between ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organization. In a statement to mark UN day in solidarity with the people of Palestine yesterday, the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, called on these forces to stop their activities. He said some powers opposed to the liberation of Palestine for their own self-interest are directly sowing the seeds of discontent within the PLO. Comrade Mangwende said Zionist Israel aims to capture Arab and Palestinian land until its borders reached the fictitious boundaries of the so-called biblical area of Judaea. (?The minister) said Zimbabwe is committed to the cause of the struggling masses of Palestine and appeals to them to unite under the banner of the PLO and the leadership of Comrade Yasir 'Arafat.

In a message read by the PLO representative, Comrade 'Ali Halimah, to a solidarity meeting at [word indistinct] hall in Harare yesterday, Comrade 'Arafat said the struggle for an independent Palestine will continue on the new fronts (?upon) the loss of Lebanon as an important rear base. Comrade 'Arafat said that the Palestinian mutineers' attempts were in conjunction with the policy of Zionist Israel and its allies, the United States [words indistinct] what it failed to do in its attempts to destroy the PLO [words indistinct] invasion of Lebanon last month. He appeals to the people of Zimbabwe to stand firm with the Palestinians, and to stop them from being massacred in northern Lebanon in an attempt to destroy their revolution.